the Central Voice

REAL GAY NEWS. WE GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.

5 things older gay men need to talk about
PG. 9

Word Police: Should we be worried?
PG. 5

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ACTIVISTS' MOMENTUM BUILDS

Get up, stand up for your rights

By Frank Pizzoli

All politics is local, former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill (1977-87) famously said.

In support of O'Neill's adage, Lancaster voters recently proved his words still carry weight.

Michelle Hines tells *The Central Voice* that after President Trump's November 2016 election "a group of young organizers and community leaders in Lancaster decided to hold an emergency community meeting." They used the hashtag #LancasterStandsUp.

Three hundred people came to Southern Market "to share our emotions, concerns, and to plan for the road ahead," Hines said. She attended that first meeting and soon found herself on the leadership team, organizing actions, meetings, and working groups. Hines is now campaign and communications coordinator for Lancaster Stands Up.

Jess King, who unsuccessfully ran in the 2018 mid-term election against incumbent US Rep. Lloyd Smucker as he sought his second term, also attended that first meeting.

Although Hines says that the Lancaster-based grassroots movement "grew rapidly without any funding or staff," the group realized that "to build real, independent, political power and to make our movement sustainable we would have to hire staff."

Enter Jonathan Smucker, of the original leadership team.

He is executive director of Beyond the Choir. "They agreed to become our fiscal sponsor and we fundraised to hire four staff and open an office in Lancaster City," Hines explains. LSU has 800 members and thousands of supporters and volunteers, she says. "We've built a large, diverse, progressive community in a county that many think of as traditionally conservative."

"We have big plans for 2019, so stay tuned," Hines forecasts. "Working people have been intentionally alien-

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City to nix conversion therapy?

Discredited gay conversion therapy is still legal despite dangers. Harrisburg City Council discusses prohibiting the practice.

By The Central Voice

"This practice is not based on science. It hurts people. As other communities have acted, I want Harrisburg to discuss conversion therapy too."

-Harrisburg city council member Ben Allatt

"…a good step forward" is how Harrisburg Human Relations Commission chair Russ Boggs describes efforts by Harrisburg City Council to take a stand on 'conversion therapy'.

The Central Voice reported in October that Harrisburg City Council member Ben Allatt was leading an effort to have Pennsylvania's capitol city take a position on the therapy which is discredited by the American Psychiatric Association and a long list of professional mental health organizations. Allatt has initiated a discussion in city council that could lead to a ban or a resolution of the practice, depending on the legal ins and outs of laws governing Harrisburg's Third Class City status.

HHRC chair Boggs tells *CV*: "Conversion therapy, reparative therapy, otherwise known as 'pray the gay away' is a spectrum of practices that aim to change, alter, modify, or eradicate a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or behaviors. The Harrisburg Human Relations Commission's (HHRC) nine commissioners and staff liaison support City Council Vice President Ben Allatt in this action (via a resolution) to make this inclusive policy statement. This is a good first step toward prohibiting this so-called therapy. The next step being an ordinance, which includes penalties, for violations."

"This practice is not based on science. It hurts people. As other communities have acted, I want Harrisburg to discuss conversion therapy too," Allatt says. "Conversion therapy focuses on the repression of your feelings," Allatt told *CV*. He knows because when in his 20s Allatt enrolled in a form of the controversial

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INTERNATIONAL

UKRAINE

Kiev transgender rights canceled

Activists for transgender rights were forced to disband a demonstration in Kiev after counter-demonstrators assaulted several protesters and attacked a Canadian journalist trying to cover the event. The organizers of the event criticized Ukrainian police for failing to protect about 40 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights activists who had planned to gather in Shevchenko Park on November 18 for a legally sanctioned march through the streets of the Ukrainian capital coinciding with International Transgender Remembrance Day. The demonstrators, who were holding rainbow flags and banners with slogans such as "Transphobia must be stopped," were forced to relocate to a nearby location after about 100 "religious radicals and far-right groups" arrived in the park for a counterdemonstration. The counterdemonstrators included members of the far-right groups Tradition and Order, Right Sector, and the Religious National Front.

SINGAPORE

Popular DJ challenges gay sex ban

A Singapore DJ has filed a court challenge against a colonial-era law that bans gay sex in the conservative city-state, following India's scrapping of similar legislation reports Fathin Ungku. Johnson Ong Ming, 43, also known as DJ Big Kid, filed his challenge with the High Court just four days after India's landmark ruling reported by *The Central Voice*. Under Section 377A of Singapore's Penal Code, a man found to have committed an act of "gross indecency" with another man could be jailed for up to two years, although prosecutions are rare. The law does not apply to homosexual acts between women. "We intend to argue that Section 377A is absurd and arbitrary," lawyers Suang Wijaya and Eugene Thuraisingam told Reuters in a joint statement, adding that the law is "in violation of human dignity".
Previous legal challenges to overturn the ban have failed, but a top Singapore diplomat called on the gay community to renew legal action against the law a day after India's top court decriminalized gay sex.

CANADA

Trudeau mum on keeping LGBT protections

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau isn't saying what he is willing to do to keep a provision protecting labor rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer workers inside a renewed North American free trade pact reports Jordan Press for Canadian TV News. More than 40 Republican lawmakers wrote U.S. President Donald Trump demanding the removal of language in the agreement pledging all three countries to support "policies that protect workers against employment discrimination on the basis of sex, including with regard to pregnancy, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity." The legislators urged Trump not to sign the agreement unless the language was removed.

AUSTRALIA

Student comes out at assembly

A student came out to more than 1500 of his Catholic school classmates during an assembly reports SBS News. Finn Stannard, 17, told St. Ignatius' College in Sydney, Australia: "I have been working towards this speech for four years." And he came out. The school is one of Sydney's most elite Catholic schools that boasts former prime minister Tony Abbott and Barnaby Joyce among its alumni. "Announcing yourself to the world is pretty terrifying," he said. "What if the world doesn't like you? Life was easier living as the straight eldest son. I had spent so long behind the façade of a confident, heterosexual man that I wasn't sure if I knew how to be me." He received a standing ovation from his fellow students. Stannard said that he was inspired to come out by the success of last year's national referendum on marriage equality in Australia.

CHINA

10 year jail term for author

A Chinese court's 10-year jail term for an author of a homoerotic book found guilty of profiting from selling "obscene" literature has been met with disbelief among some internet users who question how the crime could warrant so severe a punishment. The author, surnamed Liu, was found guilty by Wuhu county court in eastern Anhui province after she self-published a book that "obscenely and in detail described gay male-male acts", according to state media. The court ruled that the strict sentence was enforced due to her having made 150,000 yuan ($21,600) by selling over 7,000 copies. The case went viral on Chinese social media at the weekend as commentators asked how such a punishment made sense when some sexual assault cases often drew lighter sentences. Pornography has long been illegal in China, but in recent years, the Communist Party has intensified efforts to clear away what it sees as inappropriate content, introducing new legislation, rewards and punishments to help its aims.

CENTRAL AMERICA

80 LGBTQ Central Americans in caravan

A group of about 80 LGBTQ Central Americans recently arrived in Tijuana, the first members of a migrant caravan traveling through Mexico toward the U.S. border since October. The migrants had organized within the caravan itself, electing leaders and taking their own census within the larger group. The group had managed to scrounge together resources for bus transportation to Tijuana and a temporary place to stay in Playas de Tijuana until they were processed for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. The group of LGBTQ migrants who arrived Sunday had secured an Airbnb in Playas de Tijuana, an upscale neighborhood on the coast. Outside of the home, they spoke with reporters about their journey from Central America and how they hoped to be processed fairly for asylum.

GUYANA

Cross-dressing law declared unconstitutional

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) ruled that a law in Guyana, which makes it a criminal offence for a man or a woman to appear in a public place while dressed in clothing of the opposite sex for an "improper purpose", is unconstitutional. The law, Section 153(1)(xlvii) of the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act, is to be struck from the laws of Guyana. The case of Quincy McEwan, Seon Clarke, Joseph Fraser, Seyon Persaud and the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD) v. The Attorney General of Guyana began with the arrest of the appellants in February 2009. Four of the appellants, who identify as transgender persons, were arrested, convicted and punished for cross-dressing in public. At the time of arrest, McEwan was dressed in a pink shirt and a pair of tights and Clarke was wearing slippers and a skirt. A few hours later, Fraser and Persaud were also arrested by the police and taken to the Brickdam Police Station. At the time, they were dressed in skirts and were wearing wigs.

ROMANIA

Top court backs gay couples

Romania's top court has ruled that gay couples should have the same family rights as heterosexuals, a judgment that comes ahead of a national referendum seeking to ban same-sex marriage. The Constitutional Court ruled that same-sex couples had the same rights to a private and family life as heterosexuals and should "benefit from.... legal and juridical recognition of their rights and obligations." The Romanian constitution currently says marriage is between spouses. A referendum seeks to change that to explicitly state that marriage is between a man and a woman. Critics say amending the constitution could violate human rights and amounts to antigay discrimination.

NATIONAL

Women are lesbians because they're too ugly

Religious right activist Dave Daubenmire, who goes by "Coach Dave" online, made some homophobic and misogynist comments about lesbians reports Alex Bollinger for LGBTQ Nation. Daubenmire, while discussing a trip to Walmart, said that he discovered that not everyone is attractive. "There are a lot of unattractive people in the world," he said, as if this were the first time he paid attention to anyone besides himself when out in public. Suddenly he had what he thought was a novel explanation for why some people are gay: they're just too ugly to be straight. "I don't wonder if some of this… Especially in women… Some of this homosexuality stuff going on…" he said.

Polis first openly-gay man elected governor

Rep. Jared Polis has become the first openly gay man elected governor in U.S. history. On election night he said, "Tonight, we reaffirm what makes Colorado the amazing state that it is." "Generations of LGBTQ advocates have dreamed of the moment when voters would

Please see **POLITICAL UPDATES**, page **21**

Make your new year meaningful

Publisher's Voice

By Frank Pizzoli

Clichés aside, there are many worthwhile New Year's Resolutions to be made.

Transgender

Big picture items include the increased and continuous deaths of transgender women. In 2017, we lost 29 transgender people in the US due to fatal violence, the most ever recorded. They were killed by acquaintances, partners and strangers, some of whom have been arrested and charged, while others have yet to be identified. Some of these cases involve clear anti-transgender bias. In others, the victim's transgender status may have put them at risk in other ways, such as forcing them into homelessness.

While the details of these cases differ, it is clear that fatal violence disproportionately affects transgender women of color, and that the intersections of racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia conspire to deprive them of employment, housing, healthcare and other necessities, barriers that make them vulnerable.

So far (I'm writing this in 2018), 2018 has already seen at least 24 transgender people fatally shot or killed by other violent means. A life lost is a life lost. We're all better off if we're all safe.

Civil Rights

The adage often quoted to me by a sage advisor is that once, for example, an institutional setting of discrimination has 'one' among them "that changes everything." Not so with Pennsylvania. Although he has made his presence known in many ways, State Rep. Brian Sims has not been successful in having his colleagues opposed to basic LGBT civil rights allow legislation to be acted upon. Have we left him down? Has the general ambivalence around electoral politics, our 'not voting," kept us from electing individuals who can assist Rep. Sims, and now Rep. Kenyatta? How does not voting help the small, faithful cadre of supporters of the PA Fairness Act calling for basic LGBT civil rights help us reach the goal? Have we given our elected leaders the kind of support they need to get 'our' job done. It's not exclusively their job.

Now that there's a second openly-gay legislator – Malcolm Kenyatta, like Sims, also from Philadelphia – in the legislature, for 2019 can we all rededicate ourselves to helping them help us? Let's vow to drag Pennsylvania out of its provincial caves into the 21st Century.

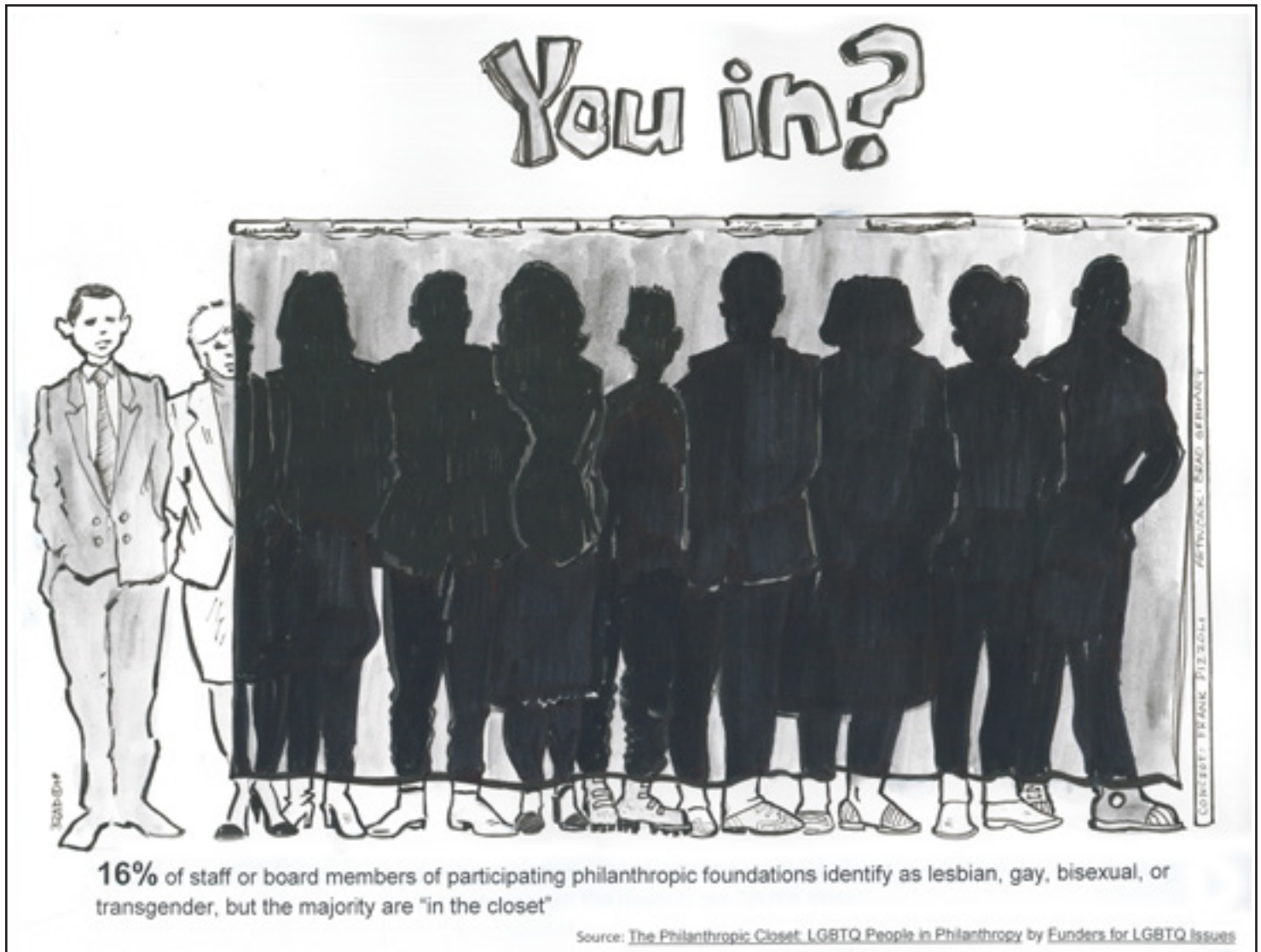
Registering to vote – and actually voting in all local, state, and Federal elections - is a good place to start in both the state and the nation.

Rather than headlines like *Will Millennials Shock Us and Vote?* I'm hoping to see announcements like *Millennials Voted and Learned They Rule!*

Pew Research Center says, "As of November 2016, an estimated 62 million Millennials (adults ages 20 to 35 in 2016) were voting-age US citizens, surpassing the 57 million Generation X members (ages 36 to 51) in the nation's electorate and moving closer in number to the 70 million Baby Boomers (ages 52 to 70). Millennials comprised 27% of the voting-eligible population in 2016, while Boomers made up 31%."

When those eligible to vote don't, those who do get the government they don't deserve. And that outcome works both ways. If everyone votes, one side or another or a coalition doesn't get everything or anything they want. That's electoral politics. But I have enough faith in Humanity that enlightened self-interest will prevail.

Will you resolve to protect LGBT people and vote in all elections?



16% of staff or board members of participating philanthropic foundations identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, but the majority are "in the closet"

Source: The Philanthropic Closet: LGBTQ People in Philanthropy by Funders for LGBTQ Issues

Please see page 6 for full story

the Central Voice

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PETER STALEY'S VOICE:

Do we have a 'word police' problem?

By The Central Voice

One veteran activist with impeccable credentials wonders aloud if we have a 'word police' problem. Peter Staley is an American HIV/AIDS-LGBT rights activist, known for his work with ACT UP and founding both the Treatment Action Group and the educational website AIDSmeds.com. He is a primary figure in the Oscar-nominated documentary *How to Survive a Plague*. He is currently at work on his memoir.

Staley isn't the only person wondering if our hyperattention to language is actually forestalling the kind of change many seek. For example, at the recent Milford Readers and Writers Book Festival, bona fide feminist Susan Faludi said she thought we were having lots of discussions about how to have a discussion, but not the discussions themselves. In other words, she's asking if our hyper sensitivity to words is inhibiting us to the point where we're not actually talking to one another for fear of being chastised rather than enlightened?

No one is suggesting there are no "*no-no*" words. No one is suggesting that language isn't important. Staley is suggesting, as are others, that maybe we're too sensitive to making 'word mistakes' that we're not having the discussions we should.

Even so, some folks are tackling the situation as evidenced by the Internet exchange below posted by Staley:

Peter Staley Word policing will be the death of progressive politics. We have got to nip this in the bud at some point.

Peter Staley I do it too, and I need to reassess how I go about it going forward, or just start letting stuff slide. We're up against basic human nature. No one likes being told what they can and cannot say. NO ONE. Have you seen the recent polling on this? It is by far the left's biggest liability.

Kevin Lees "Problematic Peter!"

Jeff Zarrillo Omg yes!!!!!!!!!

Sean Sala PREACH

Peter Staley 80% of Americans think "political correctness has gone too far." EIGHTY PERCENT!
https://hiddentribes.us/

Gregg Kapuscinski I'm offended by your use of the word nip

Tom Gualtieri AMEN. I've been saying this for a couple of years now and I'm always told to "take a seat" and "check my privilege," which is equally offensive.

Peter Staley I know some "activists" that spend almost 90% of their time on word policing. THAT'S FUCKING CRAZY.
We need to stop it with the snowflake mentality, realize that ALL humans are flawed, especially in how we communicate, and just LET SHIT SLIDE while we methodically attempt to change hearts and minds over time.

Peter Staley End of rant.

Anakh Sul Rama I think words matter differently depending on our priveleges. Growing up the term faggot meant "your going to get beaten if I can catch you" a far cry from fabulous self acceptance of today. (And even further from a bundle of sticks)

Tom Gualtieri There's also a black and white mentality - if you say something wrong, you're the worst person in the world and should be shamed and shunned. It didn't work for the Puritans, it's not going to work for Progressives. It's truly more dangerous than it seems.
We are all - on both sides - just steps away from Thought Police, which are always driven by self-righteousness.

Mike Friedman I agree with you but when people get called on shit they should not be defensive. This happens all too often.
But listen. So many of us (me included) are terrible at listening. Especially on-line.

Terry Beswick Yeah there's something to be said for the brashness of a New Yorker. Sometimes I feel like I am drowning in SF, words choked off, silenced. You know the old trope, if you go far enough to the left, you meet the right.

Chris Rico We constantly let the perfect be the enemy of the good

John Weir I'm a raging word cop, and it exhausts me. Maybe there's a 12-step program for that.
Still, though, being the target of microaggressions is a real and ongoing issue for people of color and transgender people, and so I think that cis gay white guys I know could be more understanding.

Tom Viola YES!!!!

Peter Staley, best know for his HIV/AIDS-LGBT rights activism, is now at work on his memoir.

Rick Guasco It must get exhausting policing other people's words; I know it's exhausting have to police my own so that others don't do it for me.

Steven Jack Cheslik-DeMeyer We missed the bud. It's in full flower now. We need a hedge trimmer.

Jody Barnofsky It's not always easy but it's important to try to speak to people, not at them. Many folks have been told of phenomenon like demographic changes and are concerned for various reasons, as so many of us are.

Frank Pizzoli Susan Faludi said at recent Milford Readers and Writers Festival: paraphrase - We're having more discussions about how to have a discussion than actually talking to one another.

VIEWS MY OWN:

A new American civil war feels closer than ever

By E.J. Graff
From Tree of Life Synogogue web site

After the worst attack on Jews in American history, it's time to be afraid for the future.

Here's what you won't read in the all-too-routine coverage we're seeing of the latest mass outbreak of hate: The Pittsburgh gunman who killed 11 people at a temple Saturday, like the Trump-crazed mail bomber he's knocked out of the headlines, may have been firing in the run-up to the next American civil war. This isn't a war with formal sides, declarations, border skirmishes, and a win/loss score—at least, not yet. But this contest—over what it means to be an American, a fissure that may yet break into the open—has been simmering for some time. And for so many reasons (one of them, surely, the intergenerational dread that my great-grandparents and grandparents brought over when fleeing Europe's pogroms at the end of the 19th century), this synagogue shooting fills me with a desperate desire to flee. It flashes me back to the casual anti-Semitism of my childhood classmates and Girl Scout leaders, to the plague of adolescent nightmares in which I was chased and captured by Nazis. It has me calling my Canadian friends, inquiring about their guest rooms.

Yes, it's irrational. No one is coming to round me up today, or—probably—tomorrow. But was the Pittsburgh gunman rational?

There's a familiar script we know is coming as soon as we see headlines about another mass shooting—this time at a synagogue, by a loner festering with rage and resentment and infected with anti-Semitism that's been inflamed by right-wing attacks on George Soros and the dreaded, horned figure of Shylock the globalist financier. Since this one was at a house of worship, like the Sikh temple shooting in Wisconsin in 2012, the racist Emanuel AME church massacre in Charleston in 2015, and the First Baptist Church shooting in Texas in 2017, other faith congregations will donate generously, overwhelmingly moved to bear witness that their God loves all human beings. Flags will fly at half-mast and law enforcement officials have promised, of course, to sternly and vigorously prosecute this hate crime to the fullest extent of the law.

Public officials have and will continue to condemn such an irrational, un-American (or is it uber-American?) outrage, offering up thoughts and prayers like incense on the altar of hypocrisy. People have and will continue to hold mass candlelight vigils across the country, while others will undoubtedly find a way—as they have after virtually every mass shooting since Sandy Hook—to argue the shooting was faked to swing political sentiment (in this case, toward the Democrats).

After all, if you can believe parents took money from George Soros to fake their own children's murder for political gain, how can you fail to believe the same of Jews themselves?

Meanwhile, familiar political discussions have already begun to populate the editorial pages. Op-eds will bloom with arguments about gun rights and gun regulation, since, on the one hand, hateful lunatics can't commit mass slaughter as easily with knives as they can with AR-15s—and, on the other, only a good guy with a gun can hold off what the NRA calls anarchy and carnage. The media will launch sober and serious examinations of the spikes in hate crimes and anti-Semitic incidents—can you say "tiki

Please see **CIVIL WAR**, page **20**

STUDY OF FOUNDATIONS

Most LGBTQ staff and board are still in closet

By Chelsea Dennis
Nonprofit Quarterly

According to a recent report released by Funders for LGBTQ Issues, 16% of staff or board members of participating foundations identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, but the majority are "in the closet," which means they have not disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity to most of their colleagues.

Funded by the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, the report, titled *The Philanthropic Closet: LGBTQ People in Philanthropy,* set out to examine "the degree to which LGBTQ people feel included and welcome in the workplace." Past experience has shown that issues of privacy, the absence of workplace protections, and inexperience with collecting information on LGBTQ populations have led to a lack of research in this area. To address these challenges, Funders for LGBTQ Issues decided to contract an independent organization. SMU DataArts, which is also currently working with Bloomberg Philanthropies on its Arts Innovation and Management Program, was selected to conduct the anonymous five-minute survey.

More than 900 individuals from 36 grantmaking institutions such as the Annie E. Casey, Kresge, and Lumina Foundations participated, resulting in a 34% response rate. According to the researchers, this is exceptionally high for a survey of this type and the highest response rate SMU DataArts has ever received. Data was disaggregated into two categories: funders with a social justice or LGBTQ mission, and those with another focus such as art, wellness, or education. Overall, gay, lesbian, and bisexual people make up 16.2% of staff and board positions. For institutions with primarily a social justice or LGBTQ focus, individuals accounted for 22.8% of staff and board roles. Transgender, genderqueer, and gender nonconforming individuals account for 2% of staff and board positions at participating institutions, compared to 2.6% and 1.6% at social justice/LGBTQ-focused and other foundations, respectively.

The survey also found that the majority (53.4%) of LGBTQ people in philanthropy are "in the closet" at work. However, the number of people who have not disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity at work is lower at LGBTQ/social justice-focused organizations (44.6%). These findings closely mirror previous research conducted by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, which found that 46% of LGBTQ workforce members are in the closet. Individuals in the philanthropic sector are less likely to disclose. For people working at foundations without an LGBTQ/social justice mission, the likelihood of staying in the closet is even higher, at 63.6%.

Age, status, and seniority also influence whether individuals disclose in the workplace. The more senior a person is within the organization, the more likely they are to be "out." For instance, 62.5% of executives and senior staff were "out" versus approximately one-third of participants working in program, support, and other staff roles. Age was also a contributing factor, with LGBTQ-identifying staff generally skewing younger than their heterosexual colleagues.

The report echoes similar guidance offered in the Building Movement Project's report, Working at the Intersections: LGBTQ Nonprofit Staff and the Racial Leadership Gap. Only 24 states have laws protecting LGBTQ people in the workplace and disenfranchisement is rampant, so it is critical for institutions to create more inclusive workplaces. Doing so would improve recruitment and retention, mental health, and productivity.

The authors include five recommendations for creating a more LGBTQ-inclusive work environment:

• *Incorporate inclusive non-discrimination policies.* Enact non-discrimination rules that provide explicit protection based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

• *Diversify recruitment efforts.* Organizations are encouraged to recruit more diverse samples of LGBTQ people for board, staff, and committee positions through targeted outreach.

• *Implement LGBTQ-friendly human resource policies.* Extend LGBTQ-related benefits, such as providing health insurance coverage for transition-related procedures or benefits for same-sex domestic partners.

• *Enforce equal treatment of discrimination.* Instances of LGBTQ discrimination should be handled in the same manner as gender or race-based discrimination.

• *Build cultural competency.* Offer organization-wide trainings focused on LGBTQ issues to increase awareness and encourage dialogue.

More findings from this survey are expected to be released in the *2018 Diversity Among Philanthropic Professionals Report: A Tale of Two Sectors, from Change Philanthropy, Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy (EPIP), and Funders for LGBTQ Issues.*

NEW FOR 2019: LGBT GUIDE
CENTRAL PA'S COMPLETE LGBT DIRECTORY

Which button will you push?

Making Sense of Life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

Have you ever been to one of those luxury, rooftop cocktail lounges or restaurants? The top floor at the Marriott in San Francisco near the Moscone Center has one of my favorite views of the City.

The hotel has an express elevator that takes you directly to the top. You can also take an elevator that will stop at the room floors, eventually getting you to your destination at the top.

Which would you choose, the express or the other one?

The answer seems obvious. But are we as clear in our daily life choices on how we plan to get where we want to go? Or, if we are focused, what happens if the process isn't what we expected?

In the November 28th vlog episode of "Making Sense of Life" I spoke at length about the HOW in our lives, and why HOW isn't important.

The reason for this is that Divine Mind always has a better idea of the way our desires will manifest. If you're in a hurry to get to an appointment and the building elevator stops at nearly every floor – did I mention the appointment was on the 37th floor? – you might be more than a little annoyed.

But what if – just what if – that man or woman of your dreams happened upon your gaze on the 18th floor? Heck, you might be engaged before you even get to your appointment!

It's been said that life is about the journey more than the destination. All the events which have occurred in our lives each had a part – big or small – in getting us to where we are today. The next time you're fretting about the process, press the button you expect to get you where you're going.

Then sit back, enjoy the ride, and be amazed at the journey!

Terry is speaker and award-winning author. Read his weekly blog at Central Voice online or on his website at: blog.terrydrewkaranen.com. He is also the director of Spirit, Mind and Body Foundation (spiritmindbodyfoundation.org).

ALL FOR HEALTH
Let's remember that being healthy isn't a goal, it's a lifestyle.
So let's run a little faster, eat a little better, sleep a little longer, aim a little higher, love a little more, and day by day, get a little happier. And let's take pride in our health. Highmark is proud to support the LGBTQ community. Let's do it all for health.
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AllforHealth.com

Trump administration to stop data collection on LGBT health issues

By Terrance Heath

That didn't take long. Under the new leadership of right-wing Trump appointee Robert Redfield, the Centers for Disease Control has taken a big step backward.

A CDC official disclosed that the agency will roll back support for the collection of data on the health and well-being of LGBT people through the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

The impact of this move should not be underestimated.

"The BRFSS is one of the few federally-supported data collection activities that make the needs of LGBT people known to governmental agencies responsible for the safety, health and welfare of the public," said Kerith J. Conron, the Research Director at the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law.

The decision may signal that the CDC under Redfield's leadership will ignore the needs of LGBTQ Americans. If so, it may have a detrimental effect on health outcomes in our communities.

Redfield is a controversial choice to lead the agency not only because of his lack of experience in running a large government agency but also because of his involvement with anti-LGBTQ organizations and engagement in the HIV/AIDS crisis during the 80s and 90s.

During the 1980s, Redfield advocated for mandatory testing of military recruits and reporting the information to health authorities.

In the 80s, Redfield had a close relationship with the Association for a Sound AIDS Policy, an evangelical Christian organization that claimed HIV/AIDS was "God's judgment against LGBTQ people," and spread as a result of single-parent households and loss of "family values."

Both ASAP and Redfield backed legislation to subject people with HIV to testing, loss of professional licenses, and quarantine.

This new development at the CDC suggests that the agency is already feeling the influence of Redfield's leadership, and soon our communities will too.

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Alder Health Services

Be sure to practice self-care

LGBT Center of Central PA

By Amanda Arbour

It is a difficult time to be a queer or trans person in America. Not that there's ever been an easy time, but right now our LGBTQ+ communities - particularly trans and non-binary folks, queer and trans people of color, LGBTQ+ immigrants - are under attack.

It is exhausting to check our social media feeds each morning, bracing ourselves for the bad news of the day. It is exhausting to see the repeated attacks against us and those we care about. Amidst the constant barrage, we can feel powerless. What's the use of posting on social media, protesting in the streets, calling our legislators? Will anything ever actually change?

I remember feeling that acutely the Monday after the massacre at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, which came on the heels of a week with multiple attacks from the Trump Administration on transgender people, and two Black people being killed by a white supremacist in a grocery store. The collective weight of hate, violence, and oppression felt so heavy. I had no answers about how to make this better, because everything just felt so broken. But even in the midst of the sadness, the anger, the despair I had this strong sense that we had to keep trying. We had to keep speaking out, showing up, donating, volunteering, working, living, existing, and resisting - because what was the alternative? We couldn't let the forces of hate, violence, and oppression win, even though they felt so strong.

> Practicing self-care and creating chosen families IS radical, and part of what makes us resilient.

That's still how I feel today. Our LGBTQ+ movement - and every movement for liberation - has been built on resistance, since we know as Dr. King said that "freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed". It is often one step forward and two steps back - because social change is not linear, and those in power will always be pushing back as we push forward. So in order to continue our resistance we need to build our resilience by caring for ourselves and caring for each other, because we are in this for the long haul.

As Audre Lorde famously said "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare". She was speaking from her lived experiences as a Black queer woman living under the daily oppression and violence from racist, sexist, and heterosexist systems - systems that still exist today. Unfortunately, "self-care" has too often become a buzzword, and is commodified by our capitalist society to try to sell us things or experiences. However, truly caring for ourselves in a society that does not value our identities or our lives IS revolutionary. So how can we seek to embody this concept of self-care in its truest form?

Part of it is being mindful of how and when we read the news or use social media. If we are connected to what's going on in the world 24/7, it becomes both overwhelming and numbing. But by allowing ourselves to take breaks, we can both rejuvenate ourselves and be more mindful when we are connected. For me, this means that when I put on an episode of TV to unwind after work, I put my phone upside down next to me and don't check it until that episode is over. It's one hour of being focused on something else, and even being present during the commercials rather than scrolling through Facebook or checking my e-mail. There's something about that one hour that makes me feel more able to engage with the world in meaningful ways after making that intentional space to take a break.

It's also about creating space for the things that are life-giving for us. What are the things that you love to do, that make you feel most alive and connected to yourself? For some people it's creating art, dancing, listening to music, reading, or writing poetry. For me, I love watching good television, listening to memoirs (right now: Michelle Obama!), playing Mary Lambert really loud and singing along, walking by the river, and writing about things that matter. It can be challenging for us to create space for these things, due to lack of time or resources, exhaustion or depression, or being in a place where we're just trying to survive. In some ways, self-care is a luxury - but it shouldn't be, because it is critical to our survival.

The other thing that is critical to our survival is caring for each other. One of the incredible strengths of our LGBTQ+ communities is the creation of chosen families. While we may or may not have close relationships (or any relationships) with our families of origin, we have created families of choice - people who we love and care for and who love and care for us through all of life's ups and downs.

We see this throughout the history of our movement - the Ball Culture creating "houses" with parental figures providing tangible support and a place of belonging for queer and trans people of color; the Stonewall Inn offering a place of welcome for trans women of color, drag queens, and homeless LGBTQ+ youth; the LGBTQ+ communities who came around gay men and others who were

Please see **SELF-CARE**, page **22**

5 things older gay men need to talk about

By David Toussaint

It's never fun to admit your vulnerability, perceived or otherwise, and it goes against our IG-saturated, social-media world to post about problematic life subjects.

But, heck, as older gay men, the more we open up about those "closed" topics, the more we can relate, and help, one another not just survive but thrive late into a glorious old age.

So here, five topics that need to be discussed more often. Share if you dare.

Finances

There are times in my life when I've had money and times when I've been flat broke. (I'm a writer, dudes—it ain't a solid paycheck.) Growing older and gay without an established, stable lifestyle is one of the hardest topics for me to discuss. When you don't have money, people feel free to chat about your finances in mixed company, usually referring to you in the third person. When you do have it, oddly, they only talk about it behind your back.

For those of you struggling, if you haven't figured it out from the news, you're not alone. Even a lot of people who act like they have money actually don't—they're living on a borrowed dime. If your friends exclude you, from parties, from dinner, from weekend getaways, because you don't "bring anything to the table"—yes, that was said to me once during a time of financial duress—then get rid of them. Their superficiality isn't worth a dime.

Sex drive

I'm not going to get any dates for writing this post.

It's common to fight the physical aspects of aging—diet, exercise, cosmetic enhancements—but how much emotional work are we putting into actually accepting that rising number?

Like many men my age I've been subjected to that fateful cliché, Don't worry; it happens to the best of us. Our gay world is sometimes about the penis, and when your sex drive dwindles, your social life often suffers too. (On a side note: Medical remedies are important to keep in mind, but out of my jurisdiction, discussion-wise.) Porn, hook-up apps, the sex saturation of marketers, and good old-fashioned bitch brunches steer us into the false belief that we're always horny and hard.

If you're sex drive is a bit off these days, either for a significant period of time or just an evening, don't beat yourself up. Tell your partner, your date, and opt for a night of the many pleasures of companionship: conversation, cuddling. You may be surprised how erotic emotional intimacy is, even if it does not involve "release." And by all means, talk to your friends about how to keep sex and romance alive in a time when sex may no longer be your life's ambition. Most of them have been there, and the stigma attached lifts when you realize the cliché, above, really isn't an insult.

Body image

I haven't been completely content with my body for about 15 years. I'm always at least five pounds above my ideal weight, no matter what the scale says, and my arms are never sculpted enough. After years of working out alongside younger, more "perfect" men I've been conditioned to feel this way. And then there are the Photoshopped hunks that haunt our self-esteem.

Distressing as that may sound, it's fairly common. I'm friendly with dozens of men who aren't happy about the way they look, many to a much worse degree than myself. We have to work on this issue, and we need to do it together. In the past couple of years I've opened myself up more to accepting physical imperfections, and it's been through the encouraging words—and actions—of friends and lovers, as well as my own personal growth. Sometimes I'm shocked at the parts of my body partners have loved, and I know they've often been surprised at how much I loved that, say, six-pack-free stomach.

And walk around naked more often. It's one of the best ways to learn how to be comfortable with your own body.

Substance abuse

I've made no secret of abusing alcohol in the past, and believe the more we're all open to discussing addiction, the healthier we'll be—not to mention more likely to seek help or refrain from excess. And in case you haven't looked up of late, we have an opioid epidemic in this country. As we age, anxiety and depression may increase, and we need to check in on our loved ones.

In the past year, I've found out that I have close friends too dependent on, among other things, sleeping pills, anti-anxiety drugs, and booze. In each of the above-mentioned examples, I found out through honest conversations about life and all its myriad challenges—I had no idea there was abuse taking place. Most people who abuse drugs and/or alcohol want to talk about it. Many of them don't feel comfortable, fearing judgment. Do neither; just love them and you'll both get a boost.

Aging

It's common to fight the physical aspects of aging—diet, exercise, cosmetic enhancements—but how much emotional work are we putting into actually accepting that rising number? It's safe to say this is one issue we all share, and we need to make share our fears and joys about getting older are out in the open.

Because one of my parents is deceased and another is elderly, my large, extended family talk about the aging process regularly. But among my gay friends (my other family), I sometimes forget to move the aging discussion beyond the "remember when we were younger?" conversations. Since I'm single, a lot of these guys will be my old-age friends, and we have started to talk about health, finances, home life, and everything else leading up to the really fun topic, death.

And since I've lost so many role models to AIDS, these survivors have become my solace, my inspiration.

When you think about it, there's no time like the present to talk about the future.

WHITE HOUSE CLOSET

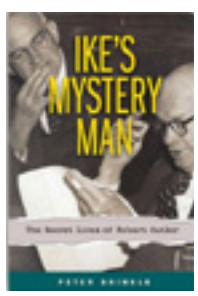
Tortured history of the gay man who touched off the purge of gays in government

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, left, and Robert Cutler, his special assistant for national security affairs.
PHOTO: JOSEPH SCHERSCHEL/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES

By Michael Isikoff
Chief Investigative Correspondent, Yahoo News

In the annals of presidential directives, few were more chilling than a document signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in April 1953. Crafted during the height of the Cold War, Executive Order 10450 declared that alongside Communism, "sexual perversion" by government officials was a threat to national security. The order became the trigger for a massive purge of the federal workforce. In the years that followed, thousands of government employees were investigated and fired for the "crime" of being gay.

The full story of Executive Order 10450 and its terrible consequences has only started to surface in more recent years as a result of books like "The Lavender Scare" and films like "Uniquely Nasty," a 2015 Yahoo News documentary that this reporter co-wrote and directed. But it turns out there was an untold personal drama behind the making of the antigay White House order — a saga that is recounted for the first time in a new book to be published next week, "Ike's Mystery Man: The Secret Lives of Robert Cutler."



BOOK COVER COURTESY OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

Written by Peter Shinkle, a former reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch,* it tells the life story of the author's great-uncle, a central character in the creation of Executive Order 10450. A blue-blood liberal Republican from a prominent Boston family, a Harvard graduate and member of the elite Porcellian Club, a wealthy banker and U.S. Army general during World War II, Robert "Bobby" Cutler Jr. became a close adviser to Eisenhower during his 1952 presidential campaign. He was then tapped by Ike to serve as White House special assistant for national security affairs, the forerunner to the position of national security adviser.

Robert "Bobby" Cutler, left, and Skip Koons at the pool at the Dumbarton Oaks mansion in Washington, D.C., in July 1957.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF STEPHEN BENEDICT

In that post, Cutler, who prided himself on never talking to the press, was a pivotal figure, helping to direct U.S. foreign policy during an era of tense global confrontation with the Soviet Union. And it was Cutler who oversaw the drafting of Executive Order 10450 — a role all the more remarkable because, as Shinkle reveals, Cutler was a gay man who secretly pursued a passionate, years-long relationship with a young naval intelligence officer on the National Security Council staff, Tilghman "Skip" Koons.

"Bobby served the nation's strategic defense and national security interests brilliantly, while living in private agony as a closeted homosexual, deprived of the affections for which he longed," writes Shinkle.

As advance word of Shinkle's book has spread, it has already begun making waves among historians and activists who have been trying for years to resurrect the erased history of the U.S. government's demonization of homosexuals, and to understand how it came about.

"It's an incredible piece of research," said Charles Francis, president of the Washington Mattachine Society, who has filed multiple freedom of information requests to uncover documents relating to the government's past persecution of homosexuals.

"The Eisenhower executive order caused unspeakable damage to loyal LGBT Americans," he said. "Tens of thousands were investigated and had their lives ruined. This is the texture of history. That you have a homosexual — known to himself as a homosexual — writing this order, it blew my mind."

Francis said his first reaction to Shinkle's book was anger. He regarded Cutler as the "ultimate Quisling" for unleashing a policy that did great harm to people like himself. But upon reflection, Francis softened his judgment somewhat. "To be fair," he now says, "he was living in McCarthy's America."

The rest is history. In short, Shinkle had come across a gay triangle at the heart of the White House national security apparatus during the height of the McCarthy era — a tangle of relationships previously unknown to historians.

Whatever the motivation, the impact of the executive order Cutler helped draft was devastating. Shinkle writes about the "climate of fear" it created for gays and lesbians. Security investigators forced them to take lie detector tests and pressured them to reveal names of associates. One security agent at the State Department, Peter Szluk, boasted of being the "hatchet man" and disparaged hearings and due process as "a waste of time." He would say, "The son of a bitch is queer, out he goes!" Szluk, to be sure, later expressed some regret about the number of his targets who killed themselves, sometimes "within minutes" after leaving his office.

Bobby Cutler's secret lover, Skip Koons, pictured in his U.S. Navy uniform.
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF STEPHEN BENEDICT

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James Warhola with Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup Cans at the Whitney Museum.
PHOTO BY @ABBYWARHOLA

Warhol retrospective paints vivid history

by Deb Miller
Arts & Culture Writer for The Central Voice

Running until March 31, "Andy Warhol – From A to B and Back Again" at the Whitney Museum of American Art is the first major retrospective of the iconic Pop artist's work in the US since 1989 (two years after his untimely death in 1987, at the age of 58).

Organized by Donna De Salvo (the Whitney's Senior Curator and Deputy Director for International Initiatives, who met Andy near the end of his life, in 1986), the show is also the largest single-artist exhibition at the museum's new downtown location (at 99 Gansevoort Street), with more than 350 works that trace the trajectory of Warhol's career on three different floors.

Prior to the official opening Nov. 6, the press, VIP guests, and members of the museum were invited to an invitation-only preview to celebrate Andy's "inventive, influential, and important" work and to illuminate "the breadth, depth, and interconnectedness of the artist's production."

Attendees included representatives from the Warhola family - artist and illustrator James Warhola (Andy's nephew), folk artist and silkscreener Madalen Warhola (Andy's niece), photographer Abby Warhola (Madalen's daughter), and art student Oonagh Carroll-Warhola (Jamie's daughter) – as well as some long-time Warhol associates (Bob Colacello, Robert Heide, and Bibbe Hansen, to name a few).

Beginning with examples of his paintings as a college student at Carnegie Tech in the 1940s (featuring Living Room, a view of the main room in the house where he grew up in Pittsburgh, from the Warhola Family Collection), through his early years in New York City as a commercial artist and illustrator in the 1950s (the gold-leafed drawings of shoes and homoerotic images are among the highlights), to his world-famous Pop Art of the Sixties (including such iconic works as the Campbell's Soup Cans, Brillo Boxes, Deaths and Disasters, Most Wanted, Marilyns, Maos, Elvises, and Self-Portraits, and a brightly-colored gallery-and-hallway installation of Cow Wallpaper and Flowers), to his lesser-known and less-appreciated pieces of the '70s and '80s (his 1984-85 collaborations with Jean-Michel Basquiat among them), the fifth floor installation also presents bits of personal memorabilia, issues of InterView magazine, and a selection of Factory films in a darkened screening room. Together they offer a sweeping view of the four decades of Warhol's career, and the show as a whole evinces the consistency of what has come to be the signature Warhol style – bold experimentation, color, and design, an uncanny insight into the objects and subjects that capture the tenor and trends of each period in which he worked, and his prescient awareness of the coming digital age, the impact of the internet, and the love of selfies that characterize our era in the 21st century.

The third floor offers a selection of Warhol's groundbreaking productions of film, video, and TV from the '60s to the '80s, which, like his paintings and prints, incorporate the latest technology of their times. And the first floor lobby gallery contains a group of Andy's portraits – his largest body of work – that range from the commissioned images of the rich and famous, to those of friends, family, and colleagues in the arts, created between 1968 and 1987, which display his recognition of the power of images and presage the widespread presence of portraits across today's social-media platforms.

The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive illustrated catalogue that incorporates the latest research into everything Warhol, so if you're a fan, or would like to know more about the legendary artist, be sure not to miss this fabulous retrospective!

Andy Warhol - From A to B and Back Again is on exhibit through Sunday, March 31, 2019, at the Whitney Museum of American Art - 99 Gansevoort Street, NYC. For information, call (212) 570-3600, or go online.

Andy Warhol, Cow Wallpaper and Flowers installation at the Whitney Museum.
PHOTO BY @ABBYWARHOLA.

Top center is Frank Pizzoli, The Central Voice editor and publisher, with Warhola family members in 2003. In flowered shirt is artist and illustrator James Warhola (Andy's nephew), to his left is arts and culture writer Deb Miller. In purple top is folk artist and silkscreener Madalen Warhola (Andy's niece). Far left is photographer Abby Warhola (Madalen's daughter). The little girl on lap is Oonagh Carroll-Warhola (Jamie's daughter).
PHOTO BY RAY COSTELLO.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Iceland no. 1 on LGBT Global Acceptance Index

Netherlands ranked No. 2, Sweden No. 3

As Donald Trump campaigned for the White House in 2016, polls showed 19–25 percent of Americans said they'd consider moving to Canada if he won, reports Lisa Neff, Wisconsin Gazette.

Surveys put that percentage even higher among LGBT voters.

But perhaps LGBT Americans should have been looking to move to Iceland, the Netherlands or Sweden, places that rank No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 on the Global Acceptance Index. Canada ranks higher than the United States but not by far, though the rating is based on data from before Trump took the White House.

The Global Acceptance Index was created to measure LGBT acceptance and inclusion and its effects. UCLA's Williams Institute recently released a series of studies that include rankings of 141 countries on their level of social acceptance of LGBT people and rights since 1980.

Acceptance, in the studies, refers to social beliefs about LGBT people, as well as the prevailing opinion about laws and policies that protect — or harm — LGBT people.

In the study "Polarized Progress: Social Acceptance of LGBT People in 141 Countries, 1981 to 2014," the researchers documented increased acceptance in 80 countries, a decline in 46 and no statistical change in 15.

The most accepting countries were Iceland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Andorra — a tiny, independent principality situated between France and Spain.

A second study released by the Williams Institute was titled "Examining the Relationship between Social Acceptance of LGBT People and Legal Inclusion of Sexual Minorities."

Here, the researchers found that democracies with a commitment to a free press and the rule of law had the strongest relationship between acceptance and inclusion.

The relationship is weaker in states with autocracies.

A third study looked at links between acceptance, legal protections and economic performance. Generally, LGBT people are economically better off in places where they are guaranteed rights.

In this study, the researchers were able to associate higher Gross Domestic Product in countries with LGBT legal rights.

Two key findings:

• Having one additional legal right was associated with an increase in a country's GDP of $1,694 per capita.

• An increase of just one point on the Global Acceptance Index was associated with an increase in GDP of $1,506 per capita.

"Programs that reduce violence, stigma and discrimination against LGBT people and policies that enhance access to education and health care will allow LGBT people the opportunity to realize their full economic potential, which will benefit the overall economy," said Williams Institute researcher M.V. Lee Badgett.

Following the "Rainbow Road" to LGBT Pride in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

PHOTO: RAPHAELLE LAF EUILLE VIA FLICKR

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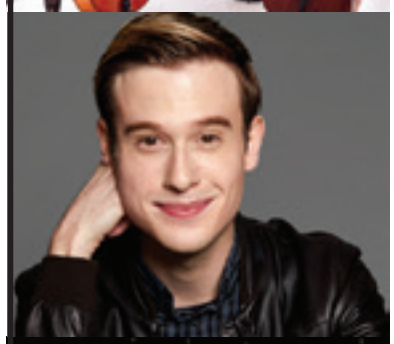

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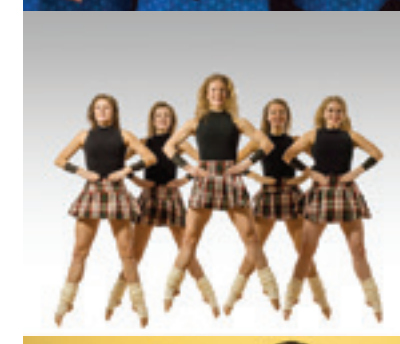
MAR. 23 | Strand Theatre

COLIN MOCHRIE & BRAD SHERWOOD Scared Scriptless
MAR. 24 | Strand Theatre

TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY
APR. 27 | Strand Theatre

PINKALICIOUS: THE MUSICAL
APR. 27 | Capitol Theatre



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Art Association of HARRISBURG

Upcoming Events

January 11th-February 14th:
Figuratively Speaking
Member's Art Exhibition
- Opening reception January 11th, 5-8 pm
- Music by Free the Tweeds

February 22nd-March 28th:
Billy Hicks Solo Photography Exhibition
- Opening reception February 22nd, 5-8 pm
- Music by Tresa Paul

March 23rd:
AAH Annual Bal Masque Event: Saints and Sinners
AT THE Hershey Country Club - The Pavillion

January 14th:
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Lesbian mafia, pink-haired recruit, and the Queer Eye

Dauphin County Library Book Reviews

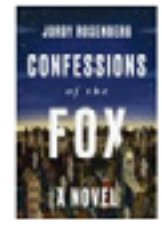
By Yvonne Carmichael

Whether you like fiction or non-fiction, cozy up with some books to help beat the long winter blues. Remember, the Dauphin County Library System is a great place to start your journey for great reading.

Queer Eye: Love Yourself, Love Your Life, by Antoni Porowski and others.

"Feeling your best is about far more than deciding what color to paint your accent wall or how to apply nightly moisturizer. It's also about creating a life that's well-rounded, filled with humor and understanding--and most importantly, that suits you. At a cultural moment when we are all craving people to admire, Queer Eye offers hope and acceptance. After you get to know the Fab Five, together they will guide you through five practical chapters that go beyond their designated areas of expertise (food & wine, fashion, grooming, home decor, and culture), touching on topics like wellness, entertaining, and defining your personal brand, and complete with bite-sized Hip Tips for your everyday quandaries. Above all else, Queer Eye aims to help you create a happy and healthy life, rooted in self-love and authenticity"—(From the publisher)

Confessions of the Fox, by Jordy Rosenberg.



"Academic intrigue meets the 18th-century underworld in Rosenberg's astonishing and mesmerizing debut, which juxtaposes queer and trans theory, slave narrative, heroic romance, postcolonial analysis, and speculative fiction. In a 2018 not entirely recognizable as our own, transgender university professor R. Voth happens upon an apparently unread 1724 manuscript entitled "Confessions of the Fox." It purports to be the memoirs of real-life 18th-century British folk hero Jack Sheppard, whose crimes and jailbreaks transfixed his contemporaries. But this Jack was born female, falls in love with a mixed-race sex worker, and clashes with a ring of conspirators attempting to monetize a potentially priceless masculinizing elixir."–(From Publishers Weekly)

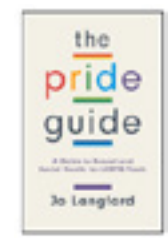
Out of Step: A Memoir, by Anthony Moll.

"What possesses an openly bisexual, pink-haired, 18-year-old young man to enlist in the army? Moll offers his answer: Mine was a muddled recipe: uneven parts teenage wanderlust, the emotional gut punch from the attacks in New York and D.C. . . . and a desire to escape from my stagnant situation in a working-class home. It was early in 2002 when he enlisted, the era of don't ask, don't tell, the dictate that Moll would endure for eight years in the military, during which, he writes, I couldn't say or be who I was. Nevertheless, the experience he recalls in his memoir is of gay and lesbian life that was surprisingly open . . ."--(From Booklist)

Stray City, by Chelsey Johnson.

"Johnson's smart and delightful debut is narrated by Andrea, a college student and self-described member of the Lesbian Mafia. The novel is set mostly in late-'90s Portland, but also flashes back to Andrea's repressive adolescence in Nebraska and forward a decade for its final section. Fresh from a painful breakup, Andrea receives a second emotional blow at the club where she goes to commiserate with her friends: she spots her ex, Flynn, in intimate conversation with her closest confidant, Vivian. This, and an abundance of alcohol, lead to a one-night dalliance with Flynn's friend Ryan, a hairdresser and aspiring musician. Andrea's fling with Ryan blossoms into a relationship, and she works to keep it secret and to understand her attraction to him, which unnerves her. When an unplanned pregnancy intervenes, must her life become conventional?"—(From Publishers Weekly)

The Pride Guide: A Guide to Sexual and Social Health for LGBTQ Youth, by Jo Langford.



"Longtime therapist and sex educator Langford has written an indispensable guide to a universe of things sexual and social for LGBTQ+ youth and their parents or caregivers. The content is near encyclopedic, ranging from biology to coming out, from dating to the religion thing, and from casual sex to personal safety. It is particularly complete and enlightening in terms of its coverage of transgender matters, cutting through the thicket of confusing jargon that usually surrounds this nuanced consideration." (From Booklist)

The Lie and How We Told It, by Tommi Parrish.

"In lovingly painted pages of comics art, with black and white intermissions, Australian cartoonist Parrish tells a deceptively simple story of friends grown apart, who run into one another by chance and spend an evening catching up. Cleary and Tim bump into each other at a grocery check-out and reconnect. Over the course of the evening, as much is concealed as is revealed, but what is left at the end is the stark understanding that, at the threshold of adulthood, one person has made emotionally honest choices and the other struggles with his sexuality and with his own heart. "—(From Publishers Weekly)

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Trans activist Brynn Tannehill on teaching by telling our stories

In her new book, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Trans (But Were Afraid to Ask),* respected trans activist and writer Brynn Tannehill dispels misinformation and transphobic myths while addressing the nuances of the trans experience.

In clear and accessible prose, she argues that while public understanding of gender continues to evolve, this evolution is also stirring pushback from those most resistant to change and progress—moral grandstanding and tribal isolation, intentionally confusing and inaccurate discourse, and an impulse to sit on the sidelines. What's needed now are singular and thoughtful voices and resources to provide understanding, empathy, and meaning to this new civil rights movement.

Tannehill is one of those singular voices. Her new book aims to break down deeply held misconceptions about trans people across all aspects of life--from politics, law, and culture to science, religion, and mental health--in order to provide readers with a deeper understanding of what it means to be trans.

In her book, she walks readers through transgender issues, from "What does transgender mean?" to more complex topics such as growing up trans, dating and sex, medical and mental health, and debates around gender and feminism. Tannehill also challenges deliberately deceptive information that's being put out into the public sphere, and debunks transphobic myths, biased research, and bad science and statistics.

Tannehill spoke with *The Central Voice* just as her book is about to hit bookstores.

Why did you choose to write this book at this particular moment?

People like stories. I like to tell stories. Our community and our allies learn from each other when we tell each other our stories.

Do you think the traditional patriarchy finds transgender people so infuriating because of its own misogyny?

The traditional patriarchy comes together from many sources. Religion is part of it, for sure, and is itself patriarchal in its structure and its treatment of women. Look at what goes on in the South, in Indiana and Ohio, and in states and regions where evangelical and conservative religious congregations thrive. Control of others' behavior is central to their whole view of life.

Tannehill's new book dispels deeply held transphobic myths misinformation

It all comes together in the patriarchy – religion, economics, the status quo. Men control women and children, organized religions, the marketplace. The loss of that power over so many is too threating to them, especially if same-sex couples and transgender people are afforded equal rights under the law.

There's been some criticism that the queer left focuses too much on 'words.' Do you agree?

I vehemently disagree. Whether one is a Democrat or Republican, we must recognize that the GOP is about targeting 'different' because it doesn't fit into their narrow mold of what is acceptable. The GOP, in fact, plays 'identity politics,' not the other way around.

Recently, at the Milford Readers and Writers Book Festival, the feminist Susan Faludi said she thought we were having lots of discussions about how to have a discussion, but not the discussions themselves. What are your thoughts about that?

We need a common language. But I don't accept the criticism that the Democratic Party is fueling 'identity politics.' They are the only home for all disenfranchised groups. What we need to do is come together in ways we haven't. And vote. We need to vote.

How can we measure the environment for transgender people today? They're visible in all forms of media, but just this year, already 20 transgender women have been reported dead due to homicide, 14 of them black transgender women. And in The Daily Beast, Samantha Allen reported that in 2017, there were 28 reported killings of transgender people in the US.

Violence against transgender people has been on the rise for the last five or six years. And in the last several years, as the rhetoric against LGB and especially trans people has coarsened, I don't think it's a coincidence that we've seen increasing violence against trans people, and especially trans women of color. Add to the mix that religious groups continue to portray us a threat to the larger community.

Do you think transgender people are on a roller coaster today? Their circumstance one of success followed by failure?

I think of us all, trans and other sexual identity minorities, as a collective. We join up or we die. That's it. Together we only make up 3.5% of the population. We are outnumbered all around. Our only hope is in collaborating and cooperating.

New director of Pennsylvania's first LGBTQ Commission shares his vision

Todd Snovel, left, with PA Gov. Tom Wolf with the Executive Order establishing the Pennsylvania LGBTQ Commission. Snovel is the commission's executive director.

By Frank Pizzoli

Pennsylvania now has an LGBTQ Commission recently brought into existence by Gov. Tom Wolf. Todd Snovel is the appointed executive director. He serves on the commission in a state surrounded by other states with basic civil rights protections for queer people. With no statewide civil rights protections, the Keystone State's history of progress on queer rights is an eye-crossing labyrinth of slow change.

In August 2018, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission has been interpreting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity as being banned under the category of sex as defined in the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. This interpretation represents a change in how a law is administered based on an LGBTQ-favorable interpretation of the current regulations. It is an advance but not a legislative solution. If discrimination is found, the HRC will 'advise' but without the force of law.

The inclusive interpretation allows the HRC to amass cases in order perhaps in the future to prove that discrimination indeed exists and that a legislative solution is needed. Queers who have been discriminated against in employment, housing, education, and public accommodations can now file complaints with the HRC Commission (not the LGBTQ Commission), which will investigate each complaint and can advise those responsible to stop a discriminatory practice, implement training, or award economic damages. Following Michigan in May of 2018, Pennsylvania was the second state to put such steps in place.

The Central Voice: *How do you view your role as chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs?*

Todd Snovel: As the executive director, I see my job as leading and managing the commission's work according to the strategic direction envisioned by our commissioners as well as the agenda for equality set forth by Governor Tom Wolf. That work is both internally and externally-facing. Internally, I work with agency leaders to consider how policies, practices, and services are inclusive and affirming of LGBTQ folx across the spectrums of state government. Externally, I work with communities across the Commonwealth to listen, provide resources, and promote collaboration as we work together to promote equity.

CV: *What is the length of commission appointments?*

TS: Commissioners are appointed for two-year terms and are renewable.

CV: *What are your goals? The commission's goals?*

TS: This is a really great question. Since we have only been established for three months, this is a high priority to ground and show direction to our work. We have surveyed all of the Commissioners to start generating these ideas. We talked through lots of possible goals at our first meeting on Nov. 2. *[See following page for short description of that meeting.]* These goals include major initiatives, such as working with state government agencies around policy and programs, as well as a series of Town Hall Meetings and projects that working groups within the commission can initialize. Governor Wolf has also set a priority of widening Pennsylvania's non-discrimination policies, making the passing of the PA Fairness Act a direct priority for the commission and the administration.

CV: *Why does Pennsylvania struggle with adopting an amendment to its Human Relations Act that would add basic civil rights protections for LGBT citizens?*

TS: Another excellent question. We are eager to help legislators understand the importance of passing the PA Fairness Act. We also need all voices collectively advocating for this – from our business owners, to our school leaders, to community organizers. It can no longer be acceptable for Pennsylvania to be the only state in the Northeast lacking these incredibly important protections for LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. I am proud to work for a governor such as Wolf who advocates so directly for equitable laws and protections of all Pennsylvanians.

CV: *Estimates are that about 20-25% of cisgendered, white gay men and lesbians voted for President Trump. Is economic and social privilege a layer of protection not available to less well-heeled LGBT individuals?*

TS: I think that, even within a historically-marginalized community, we can still hold privileges based on the intersection of our other identities. In your example, cisgendered folx, white folx, and LGBTQ folx in higher socio-economic situations all hold privileges that other members of our community may not. We need to constantly reflecting on how we are thinking about the most vulnerable of our communities when advocating. We also need to realize that not every person who identifies as LGBTQ aligns with one specific political party or ideology.

CV: *Martin Duberman, who brought us his seminal book Stonewall about the trans women who actually lead the resistance that night in 1969, recently published Has the gay movement failed? He asserts that the movement's fixation on hetero-normative victories – marriage and military service – have vailed the economic issues that thwart less privileged LGBT community members from prospering. Thoughts?*

TS: Duberman is not alone here. I've read several articles that believes that the focus on marriage equality, while an important historic moment, may have also turned focus away from other needs within the community. I believe we can both celebrate what marriage equality has meant to many as well as continue to advocate for additional needs that still exist for many folx.

CV: *What's the function, purpose, or rationale for having a representative from The Victory Fund on the commission? Sean Meloy is the Fund's Political Director. Does that run the risk of mixing electoral politics with a public service entity?*

TS: Our commissioners come with a varied collection of backgrounds, identities, and experience. Commissioner Meloy, alongside his fellow commissioners, brings to the table a vast amount of experience working on LGBTQ equity and community-building efforts.

CV: *Would you like to write a column for The Central Voice? An occasional story? Add your voice to Voice?*

TS: Sure – I'd be happy to consider this.

CV: *Add anything you think is important.*

TS: I'd love to encourage people to connect with us. They can always contact me (tsnovel@pa.gov), follow the Commission and the Office of Governor Tom Wolf on our social media platforms, or consider serving on one of our working groups.

So...who is Todd Snovel and how can I contact him?

Todd Snovel serves as the executive director for the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.

Prior to this appointment, Snovel served as associate dean for Engagement and Inclusion at Lebanon Valley College where he led the team working with students in the co-curricular experience and initiated campus-wide efforts in equity, diversity, and inclusion. He also teaches college-level courses on the studies of genders, sexualities, and identities. He holds a B.A. in English Communications from Lebanon Valley College and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Mansfield University.

Snovel remains active in his community advocating for equality and access to education, the arts, and healthcare. He has served on the boards of Lebanon Family Health Services, the Lebanon Community Theatre, The Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center, and the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. He is former chair, Lebanon County Commission for Women.

Snovel is an inducted member of the Dream Team for the Women's Fund of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and serves on the Women's Fund Advisory Committee. He was the 2014 recipient of the Athena Award from the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce and received the Wheeler Freedom Award in 2015 for his support of Lebanon County's LGBTQ community.

Snovel has provided workshops and trainings on issues of diversity, inclusion and global engagement for businesses, organizations, and conferences and is an active presenter, contributor, and Foundation trustee for ACPA: College Student Educators International. In his spare time, you might engage him through his passion for vocal performance and theatre, event planning, literature, travel or sharing his personal journey through a 175-pound weight loss and commitment to leading a healthier life.

Todd C. Snovel
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Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs
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Email: tsnovel@pa.gov
Pronouns: he, him, his

Nov. 2, the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs held its inaugural meeting at Harrisburg University.

INAUGURAL MEETING

PA Commission on LGBTQ Affairs meets

By Michael Kenton Mahler,
Erie Gay News

The inaugural meeting of the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs was held on November 2 at Harrisburg University. There are about 40 commissioners from across the Commonwealth representing a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Executive Director Todd Snovel reported on actions taken thus far:

- a listening tour of the Commonwealth
- individual correspondence
- last month Snovel spoke on a panel at the LGBTQ Aging Summit attended by about 300 people
- the Aging Summit included several discussions of a Bill of Rights for elder long-term care
- the Aging Summit is the work of the Elder Initiative and the Department of Aging
- Snovel has also been working with state departments and agencies on both inward-and outward-facing engagement and policy work.

Vice Chair Shaashawn Dial-Snowden presented a fascinating discussion on considering our language. Commissioner Adrian Shanker shared the results of the PA 2018 LGBTQ+ Health Needs Assessment released this past spring.

Future plans include:

- task based work groups
- working with individual community and local ordinances
- a series of town hall meetings

The commission will meet quarterly, rotating locations throughout the Commonwealth. February's meeting will be held in Washington, May's meeting in Philadelphia, and August's meeting in Erie. The commission will also be launching several social media platforms.

Background

On. Aug. 6 Governor Tom Wolf signed an executive order creating the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, the only one in the nation.

"The creation of the commission on LGBTQ Affairs is one step of many we have taken to ensure obstacles are removed for anyone who is facing an unfair disadvantage based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression," Gov. Wolf said. "It's a step we took together with our stakeholder and advocacy groups and one that those involved asked for – a commission to help coordinate and drive statewide equality efforts.

"Today's announcement is timely and important, but also not the end of our efforts to create a Pennsylvania that espouses inclusion and diversity in all that we do," Wolf said. "The efforts of the LGBTQ work group, established early in my administration, are recognized in many accomplishments that will continue and that group's work will move forward as a function of this commission.

"When I became governor, we saw that change was needed and we made it happen. Better yet, we are still making it happen and will do so until every Pennsylvanian can live, work, love, and thrive in our state with an assuredness of support and safety."

The commissioners

The Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs commissioners are: Chair - Anne Wakabayashi, Co-Vice-Chair - Shaashawn Dial, Co-Vice-Chair - Tyler Titus, members Ben Allatt, Rich Askey, Mark Barbee, Chris Bartlett, Rosemary Browne, Patricia Bucek, Kathy Cameron, Joanne Carroll, Marc Coleman, Katharine Dalke, Jim DePoe, Senator Lawrence Farnese, Representative Dan Frankel, Elicia Gonzales.

Also, Amber Hikes, Jodi Hirsh, Malcolm Kenyatta, Michele Kessler, Jason Landau Goodman, Maryellen Madden, Jere Mahaffey, Michael Mahler, Adil Mansoor, Adanjesús Marín, Sean Meloy, Gerald Montano, Sebastian Pelaez, Brian Patchcoski, Sarah Rosso, Kristin Seale, Adrian Shanker, Henry Sias, Representative Brian Sims, Sean Strub, Roberto "Tito" Valdes, Harry Young and Heshie Zinman.

The Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs joins the governor's existing commissions, including those on African American Affairs, Asian Pacific American Affairs, Latino Affairs and the Commission for Women.

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REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

How to achieve commonsense goals, curb violence, save lives

Firearm safety report calls for community approach to making Pennsylvania safer

DePasquale

Calling for a community approach to saving lives, Auditor General Eugene DePasquale released his special report Nov. 27 on firearm safety outlining new ways in which Pennsylvania can curb deaths and injuries without changing existing laws.

"We cannot continue to sit idly by while so many Pennsylvanians are killed or injured," DePasquale said. "More than 1,500 Pennsylvanians died as a result of firearms in 2016 – on average, that's four funerals held every day.

"Beyond the tragic human toll, firearm-related violence carries enormous costs to society," he added. "Over the last decade, firearm-related injuries cost Pennsylvania taxpayers about $1.5 billion in health care costs because 76 percent of shooting victims were either uninsured or publicly insured."

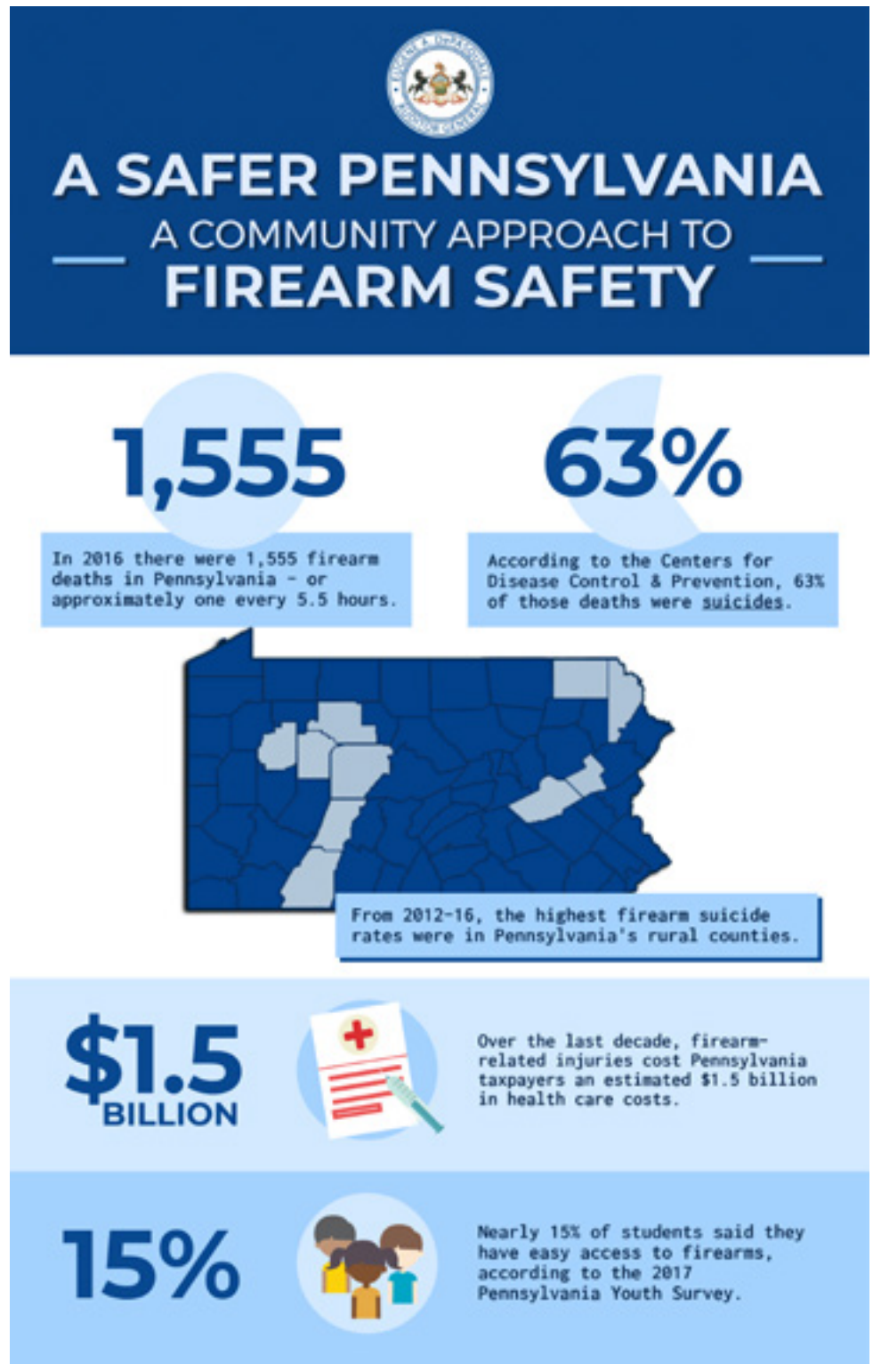
To prepare the report, DePasquale sought input from groups and individuals reflecting a broad range of perspectives, including sporting groups, safety advocates, law enforcement, medical and mental health practitioners, firearm dealers, and domestic violence prevention advocates, among others.

He noted that a unifying theme of the feedback he received was a desire to have a discussion rooted in collaboration, putting aside fear-driven rhetoric and finger-pointing.

"Having a civil discussion about firearms has become difficult in today's polarized political environment, but we all must start talking and listening to each other," DePasquale said. "When we talk and listen, it becomes clear that we can find common ground – and that's a giant step toward finding solutions."

DePasquale said mass shootings, such as the one that claimed 11 lives at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in late October, point to the need for a greater focus on the availability of mental health services as a means of prevention.

"Although mass shootings attract the most media attention — and understandably so — such crimes account for less than 1 percent of all Pennsylvania firearm fatalities annually," DePasquale said. "Of the more than 1,500 lives lost statewide in 2016, nearly two-thirds died by suicide."


A SAFER PENNSYLVANIA
A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO
FIREARM SAFETY
1,555
In 2016 there were 1,555 firearm deaths in Pennsylvania – or approximately one every 5.5 hours.
63%
According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 63% of those deaths were suicides.
From 2012-16, the highest firearm suicide rates were in Pennsylvania's rural counties.
$1.5 BILLION
Over the last decade, firearm-related injuries cost Pennsylvania taxpayers an estimated $1.5 billion in health care costs.
15%
Nearly 15% of students said they have easy access to firearms, according to the 2017 Pennsylvania Youth Survey.

"We cannot continue to sit idly by while so many Pennsylvanians are killed or injured."

- Auditor General Eugene DePasquale

DePasquale's report, "A Safer Pennsylvania: A Community Approach to Firearm Safety," contains 12 recommendations:

1. The state should work to expand access to mental health care, especially in rural communities.

2. The stigma of seeking mental health help must end; to do that, the state should mount a culturally responsive public awareness campaign.

3. Engage medical doctors and train all physicians, especially primary care physicians, to screen patients for risks of firearm violence.

4. Engage licensed firearms dealers in looking for red flags in customers who might potentially use a firearm for suicide.

5. The Pennsylvania Game Commission should expand its hunter education program section on firearm safety and create a voluntary training program on safe firearm usage and storage.

6. Encourage all firearm owners to voluntarily use safe storage best practices, such as locking unloaded firearms in a safe and storing ammunition away from firearms.

7. The state should continue to support hospital-based violence intervention programs and behavioral health resources in hospitals so they can be fully responsive to the violence they treat and ensure that unresolved trauma will not contribute to retaliation or suicide.

8. The state should support communities in organizing violence prevention efforts proven to be effective. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Gun Violence Reduction Initiative is a good example of that support.

9. The governor should sign an executive order requiring Pennsylvania State Police to issue quarterly and monthly reports on firearms traced from crimes to help track lost and stolen guns as well as firearm-related criminal activity.

10. The state should secure funding to increase Pennsylvania's participation in a national network that uses bullets to connect multiple crimes to single firearms.

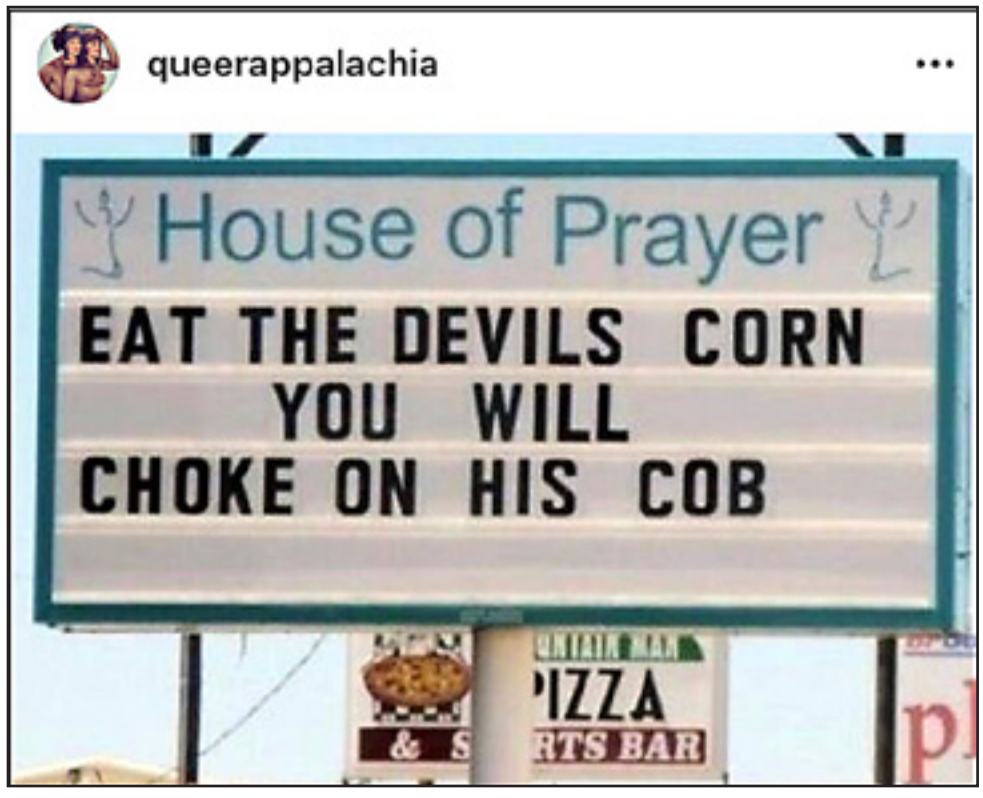
11. Sheriffs and other law-enforcement officials who issue concealed-carry permits should thoroughly check applicants' references and backgrounds before approving applications and consider prosecuting those who provide false information.

12. Pennsylvania State Police should implement the Lethality Assessment Program, which connects victims of intimate partner violence to local domestic violence programs, statewide.

DePasquale reiterated that none of his proposals would impact the constitutional rights of firearms owners, further reflecting his desire to work within existing laws.

"Misuse of firearms is a problem that affects not only those who are shot, but the communities to which they belong," he concluded. "It all boils down to this: too many people are being hurt and killed with firearms, and only by working together can we end the carnage."

To review the special report on firearm safety, visit www.paauditor.gov.



DEVILISH DEEDS

File under: Can't make it up

If homophobes only knew, but they don't.

As Samantha Allen wrote for *The Daily Beast:* 2017 has been a banner year for the armchair psychological theory that anti-gay public figures are secretly gay themselves.

Is the future any better?

Allen continued: Never mind the long-running jokes and memes about Mike Pence covering up some secret homosexual identity. There have been actual examples this year of outspoken anti-LGBT figures exhibiting behavior that seems to contradict their political ideology.

"Homophobic? Maybe You're Gay"

- The New York Times' headline

The same idea emerges every time: The hypothesis is that their bigotry doesn't just make their sexual behavior hypocritical, it actually functions as a cover for it, consciously or otherwise.

Recently, there has been former Ohio state Rep. Wesley Goodman, who resigned late last week after it came out that he had had sex with a man in his office.

In March, former Oklahoma state Sen. Ralph Shortey resigned after being hit with child prostitution charges for allegedly soliciting sex from a 17-year-old boy. Shortey has reportedly decided this week to plead guilty to a child sex trafficking charge.

Both Goodman and Shortey are married men who were clear political opponents of the LGBT community while in office.

After Shortey was arrested, the *Associated Press* noted that he "routinely" voted for anti-LGBT bills, quoting the director of the LGBT advocacy organization Freedom Oklahoma who said, "He was never vitriolic about it, but he would make the bad votes."

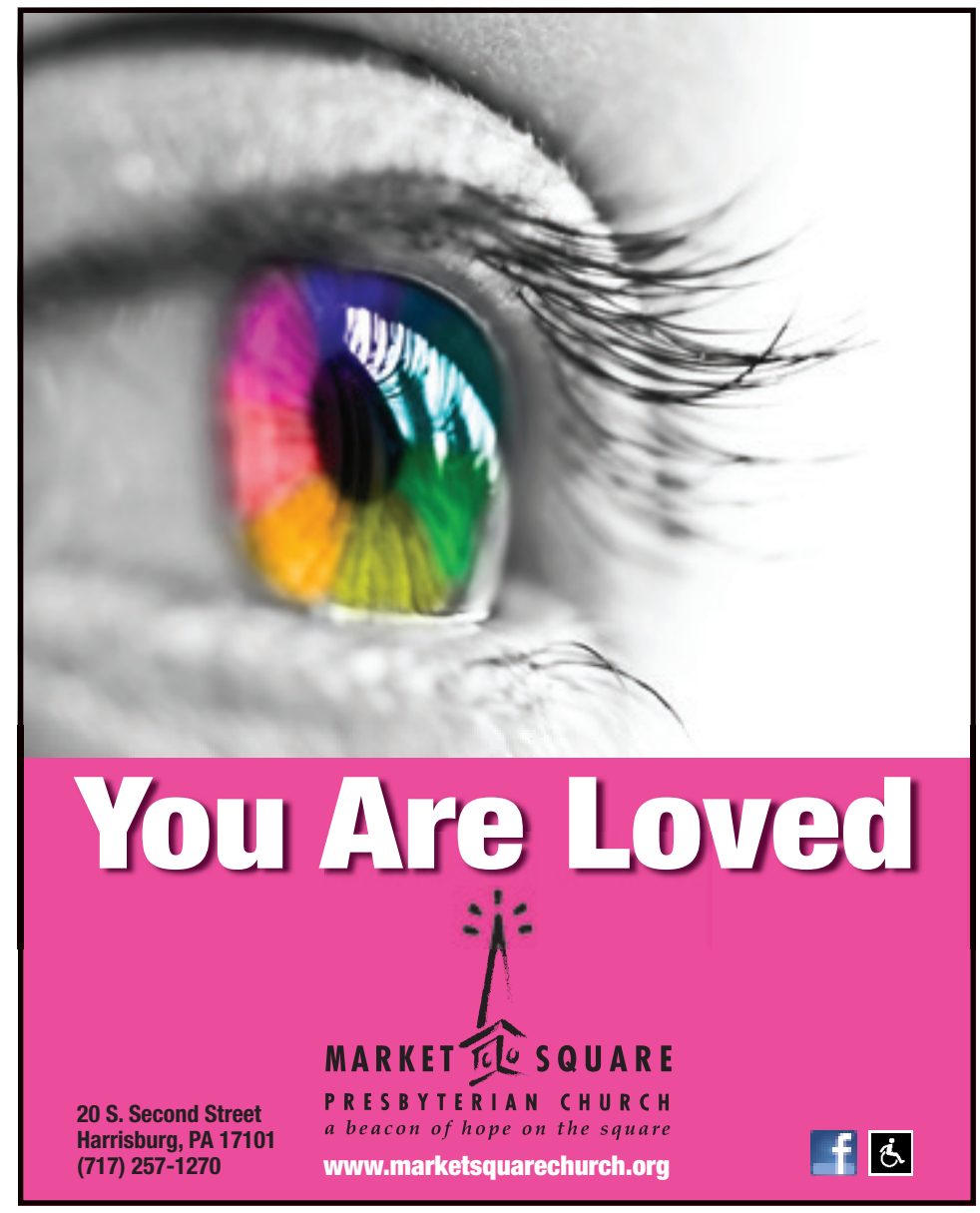
More strident was Goodman who, as the *Columbus Dispatch* reported, "consistently touted his faith and conservative values," with a Twitter bio that read: "Christian. American. Conservative. Republican."

As more information about their alleged misdeeds emerges—Goodman now stands accused of fondling an 18-year-old man at a conservative event, and of pursuing several young gay men—there is a certain grim catharsis in seeing such hypocrisy exposed.

The LGBT community will never tire of bringing up the long history of Republican gay sex scandals every time new—and increasingly unsurprising—allegations emerge, precisely because they seem to be so predictable in hindsight.

(As GQ sarcastically put it in response to the Goodman news: "Anti-Gay Ohio Republican Resigns After, Surprise, Having Sex with a Man in the State Capitol.")

A 2012 study in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* generated a fair number of headlines that year—including *The New York Times*' "Homophobic? Maybe You're Gay"—for suggesting that some self-avowed straight people who showed signs of same-sex desire were more likely to hold discriminatory attitudes.



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Robert Mueller's latest target is a nutty anti-LGBTQ conspiracy theorist

Corsi
- SIMON & SCHUSTER VIA YOUTUBE

Unlike tweet-happy President Trump, Special Counsel Robert Mueller doesn't feel the need to broadcast his every move. But he's made it clear that his next target is far-right conspiracy theorist Jerome Corsi, the man best known for insisting that President Obama is gay reports John Gallagher for *LGBTQ Nation*.

Corsi admitted that he's facing criminal charges of perjury by publicly proclaiming that he refused to take the offer of a plea deal. At issue is Corsi's alleged involvement with Wikileaks and its release of hacked emails from the Clinton campaign in 2016. Corsi insisted Monday that he didn't have any inside information. He's just really, really smart.

"I connect the dots," Corsi said in an interview on a right-wing network. "I didn't need any source to tell me."

Instead, he insisted he conducted a "forensic analysis" of 1,000 pages of info about the Democratic computer systems and concluded that the emails would be coming in October just in time to turn the campaign narrative upside down.

Unfortunately for Corsi, that's not what his own emails say. On Tuesday, NBC got hold of a draft document that Mueller is preparing that includes Corsi's correspondence with Roger Stone, a political operative best known for his dirty tricks dating back to the Nixon era.

"Word is friend in embassy plans 2 more dumps," Corsi wrote on Aug. 2, 2016, referring to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. "One shortly after I'm back. 2nd in Oct. Impact planned to be very damaging."

So much for Corsi's intuitive brilliance.

Corsi had denied ever having contact with Assange or Wikileaks. Just to be sure, he apparently scrubbed his computer in early 2017, as attention on Russian interference in the 2016 campaign began to heat up.

Corsi is the type of fringe figure that the Trump campaign attracted, like flies to honey (or something else). One of his main claims to fame was his insistence that Barack Obama was a gay Muslim.

Corsi insisted that a highly reputable source named "Carolyn" told him that Obama joined Rev. Jeremiah Wright's church to hook up with men as part of what Corsi called the Down Low Club. Corsi also claimed that Obama was once married to another man, a roommate who was (in a nice conspiratorial touch) Pakistani.

Corsi has been smearing Democrats for years. He was a promoter of the Swift Boat lies about John Kerry in 2004 and also spread lies about Obama's birth certificate. More recently, as a "correspondent" for Alex Jones' InfoWars empire, Corsi has been claiming that Pope Francis is "OK with homosexuality and does not seem to be offended by the pedophilia agenda, which is the next horizon for the LGBT."

A lot of Corsi's nuttiness is memorialized in the books he keeps churning out from such reputable publishers as Simon & Schuster.

The significance of Corsi's email exchanges with Stone is that it could establish a clear link between the Trump campaign and Russian efforts to influence the U.S. elections.

In case anyone has been worn down by Trump's continued insistence that the Mueller investigation is a witch hunt, accepting help from a foreign entity during a campaign is illegal, whether it's financial or, in this case, in-kind. There's also that small matter of wrecking the integrity of the election system.

Corsi may be betting, as Stone and Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort seem to be, that a presidential pardon will cure him of his problem. For a man who built his reputation as a conspiracy monger, it would be quite the irony if Corsi was indeed at the very center of one of the biggest—and most damaging–conspiracies in American history.

CIVIL WAR from page 5

torches?"—over the past several years, which others will call "fake news" designed to undermine a democratically elected president.

And with renewed attention on Gab, another "free speech" (the new code for hate speech) platform, we'll learn again how hatred festers like a deadly infection inside the body politic, and hear more about how for-profit algorithms are encapsulating Americans in feedback loops of the most extreme versions of their points of view. And of course we will also hear that our president, Donald Trump, mouths the right words about no-room-for-hateful-violence before he again promotes division and hatred, flogging his Make-America-White-Again slogan that invites previously hidden white nationalism to scurry into the full light of day.

It's not enough.

All of these are symptoms—symptoms, certainly, that have gotten much, much more visible since November 2016. But the underlying problem is that we are a nation profoundly divided about what it means to be American. The Atlantic's Adam Serwer suggested, in Anna Holmes' documentary The Loving Generation,that the US has long been pledging allegiance to two very different visions of what it means to be an American. On one side, being an "American" involves signing up for a civic faith dedicated to the Constitution, to the rule of law, to the privacy of the voting booth and liberty and justice for all. This is the Americanness of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Hamilton, of the pulsing urban coastal centers, a vision that's open to your tired, your poor, your refugees from around the world yearning to be free and ready to work hard. On the other hand are those who believe that "American" means people whose parents were born here, who are white and Christian, who want to bar the doors against the swarthy hordes. And yes, at least some of the latter—like this weekend's gunman—believe in the more sinister slogan that arbeicht macht frei.

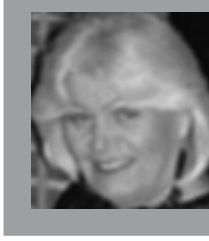
The US government has been teetering back and forth between these two visions for generations. And no matter which side occupies the White House, the other wants their country back. One side was happy with George W. Bush's red meat, red state presidency, invading freedom-hating nations, torturing suspected enemies to show strength, and keeping the country secure with a sprawling (and enduring) "security" apparatus. The other side—the globalists, the diversity-lovers, the cosmopolitans, the blue-coastal urbanites—thought that by electing Barack Obama, they had won back their country. Now, if they didn't before, these people know that boiling underneath Obama's presidency was a furious resistance: the Tea Party, the racists, the white nationalists who then elected their Birther-in-Chief.

Even if November 6 brings a Democratic wave that puts ever more women, people of color, and progressives into the House of Representatives, the countervailing red tide that rules so many of the less-populous states will almost surely keep the Senate Republican.

Please see **WAR**, page **23**

Will you stand with me?

Trans Central PA Topics



By Joanne Carroll

On Nov. 20, 2018, I conducted the fifth consecutive Transgender Day of Remembrance since stepping into the role as President of TransCentralPA in 2014.

At the moment I do not recall who the questioner was, but before the memorial service began, someone asked me how I keep up with the intensity of my schedule and the demands of this volunteer position, and how long will I continue.

In haste and in the pressure of the moment, I responded, "for as long as I have breath".

However, now, away from the event I am going to answer a bit more fully...so for whomever asked the question, here is the alternative to a sound bite.

I WILL KEEP ON, keeping on for just as long as the impact of the needless loss of even one of my murdered transgender sisters or brothers causes my tears to flow.

I WILL KEEP ON, keeping on for just as long as I feel the pain when one member of the LGBTQ family finds life so difficult that ending their life is their best way to find peace.

I WILL KEEP ON, keeping on for just as long my frustration exists because one transgender child is denied by a school system or a parent...the opportunity to live authentically

I WILL KEEP ON, keeping on for just as long as any transgender person is denied housing, employment, healthcare, education, or access to public accommodation.

I WILL KEEP ON, keeping on for just as long as I am asked to stand up and speak out in classrooms, boardrooms, conference halls, churches or at rallies.

I WILL KEEP ON, keeping on for just as long as I have the strength to put one foot in front of the other, for as long as I can put two sentences together, and for as long as I have breath.

So whoever you were, if that was a longer answer than you wanted...remember, you asked!

So let me ask you...what are you going to feel or do as you learn about the struggle, the intolerance, the hatred, and the denial of a right to exist for a transgender person's simple intent to live an authentic life?

The second question...how long are you willing to stand with me?

Joanne Carroll is President, TransCentralPA; Commissioner, Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs; Co-Chair, Keystone Conference; Member, Penn Central Conference of the UCC, Open and Affirming Ministry Team.

overcome tired stereotypes and elect an openly gay man who stands proudly with his partner and family—and this is that moment," Victory Fund president and former Houston Mayor Annise Parker said in a statement. Polis is an entrepreneur and current U.S. House representative for Colorado's second district, where he has been serving since 2009. He and his same-sex partner Marlon Reis have had two children while Polis was in political office, making him the first openly LGBT parent in Congress, as ABC News reported in 2011.

Clerk who refused marriage licenses, voted out

Kim Davis, the Kentucky clerk who made national headlines in 2015 when she was jailed after refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses, lost her bid for reelection to Democrat Elwood Caudill Jr, reports Caroline Linton for CBS News. In the Democratic primary last May, Caudill defeated David Ermold, who had sued Davis after she refused to issue a marriage license to him and David Moore. Caudill told CBS Lexington, Kentucky affiliate WKYT-TV Tuesday night that Davis had called him and conceded the race for Rowan County clerk. This was the first time Davis faced re-election since 2015, when she defied the Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage and refused to issue Ermold and Moore marriage licenses, saying it violated her religious beliefs. They sued, along with several other couples, leading Davis to be sent to jail for five days.

Catholic Archbishop: LGBT people don't exist

Trudy Ring reports for The Advocate that Philadelphia Roman Catholic Archbishop Charles Chaput, one of the more anti-LGBTQ voices in American Catholicism, says the church should avoid using term "LGBTQ" in official documents — and he blames liberal beliefs about sexuality for the church's abuse crisis. "There is no such thing as an 'LGBTQ Catholic' or a 'transgender Catholic' or a 'heterosexual Catholic,' as if our sexual appetites defined who we are; as if these designations described discrete communities of differing but equal integrity within the real ecclesial community, the body of Jesus Christ," Chaput said in a Thursday speech at the church's Youth Synod in Rome. The text of his speech was published online by the U.K.'s Catholic Herald. Chaput objected to the fact that the working document for the synod said, "Some LGBT youths, through various contributions that were received by the General Secretariat of the Synod, wish to 'benefit from greater closeness' and experience greater care by the Church."

Some Trumpers think freeing slaves was bad

Donald Trump appears to have high levels of support among the nation's intolerant population, according to a *New York Times* deep dive into polling data reports Daniel White for Time.com. *The Times* found that nearly 20% of Trump supporters did not approve of freeing the slaves, according to a January YouGov/Economist poll that asked respondents if they supported or disapproved of "the executive order that freed all slaves in the states that were in rebellion against the federal government"—Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Trump himself has never advocated for white supremacy, but some of his followers may. He has, however, called for a moratorium on Muslims entering the United States and called Mexican migrants "rapists." Exit polls from the Republican South Carolina primary reveal that 74% of voters in the state favored the Muslim ban—Trump won 41% of that group, according to the Times, which described Trump supporters as a "coalition of voters on people who are responsive to religious, social and racial intolerance."

Yankees to sponsor LGBTQ scholarships

Sarah Toce reports for *LGBTQ Nation* that the New York Yankees were recently under pressure for being the only club in Major League Baseball (MLB) without an LGBTQ pride night (the Angels were also on the "naughty list," but they recently acknowledged a plan to incorporate pride into their 2019 timeline). Now, the Yankees seem to have followed suit. In a new announcement, the Yankees said they are committed to the LGBTQ community by way of a scholarship to honor the gay rights movement at Stonewall 50 years ago. Dubbed the Yankees-Stonewall Scholars Initiative, the celebration will honor New York City graduates from the public school system in all five boroughs. The event will be held from June 17-26, 2019. Scholarship honorees will have made a positive impact toward the LGBTQ community in advancing equality.

Tadd Fujikawa first openly gay male pro golfer

Des Bieler reports for *The Washington Post* that Tadd Fujikawa, who in 2007 became the second-youngest player to make the cut at a PGA Tour event, has come out as openly gay, and he is believed to be the first male professional golfer to do so. "I can't wait for the day we all can live without feeling like we're different and excluded," he said in a recent post on Instagram. "I've been back and forth for a while about opening up about my sexuality," Fujikawa, 27, said in his post. "I thought that I didn't need to come out because it doesn't matter if anyone knows. But I remember how much other's stories have helped me in my darkest times to have hope." "I spent way too long pretending, hiding, and hating who I was. I was always afraid of what others would think/say. I've struggled with my mental health for many years because of that and it put me in a really bad place," he continued. "Now I'm standing up for myself and the rest of the LGBTQ community in hopes of being an inspiration and making a difference in someone's life."

MS senator says return to public hangings would deter crime

By Larry Campbell
Mississippitoday.org

Younger

A Republican state senator said reviving public hangings could deter crime, just weeks after U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith ignited a national firestorm by saying that she would attend a public hanging with a supporter.

After a campaign rally for Hyde-Smith during the last mid-term election cycle, State Sen. Charles Younger, R-Columbus, told *Mississippi Today* he believes Hyde-Smith has sufficiently atoned for her controversial statement. He then added that if public hangings were brought back as a method of execution, "it would deter a lot of crime."

"It's old news," said Younger, referring to Hyde-Smith's remark captured on video Nov. 2 and first published on independent news website *The Bayou Brief*.

"She said something out of jest that wasn't the most politically correct thing to say but, you know, I bet you nine out of 10 Democrats would vote to execute the young man that killed the nine black people in the church in South Carolina — the African Americans that were killed in South Carolina. I bet you nine out of 10 Democrats would vote to have him executed any kind of way."

Younger was referring to Dylann Roof, a white supremacist who murdered nine African American churchgoers in June 2015. In 2017, a federal jury sentenced Roof to death for the killings, which he committed in an historic black church in Charleston.

Hyde-Smith initially declined to respond to the controversy, but later offered an apology, which she delivered during a debate with Mike Espy, her opponent in the Nov. 27 runoff for a U.S. Senate seat.

Hyde-Smith's remarks sparked backlash given that more lynchings occurred in Mississippi than any other state. Most of these lynchings were perpetuated against African Americans by white mobs and many were carried out by hanging. Asked the relevance of Roof's actions to Hyde-Smith's remarks, Younger said:

"Public hanging was an execution style. It wasn't lynching – it was a public hanging where it had to pass through the courts and it wasn't a color or a race issue. It was just a means of punishment. And, frankly, if it was back again I think it would deter a lot of crimes."

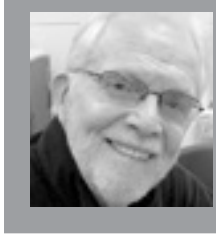
Mississippi exclusively used hanging as a form of legal execution until the mid 20th century, but a review of records shows a vast racial disparity in how the punishment was carried out.

Between 1804 and 1940, Mississippi hanged 257 people. The overwhelming majority of them were black men; two were black women. According to a database of public executions compiled by Alabama researchers M. Watt Espy (no relation to Hyde-Smith's opponent), and John Ortiz Smykla, 200, or 78 percent of people executed by hangings in Mississippi were African American. Of the total number of people hanged, 48, or 18.6 percent were white.

Younger, who is chairman of the County Affairs Committee, and his wife have three children. One of his sons, Colton, was sentenced to eight years in state prison for robbery this summer, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported in June.

Look outside the binary

Ally in the Academy



By Trum Simmons

When it comes to the challenges faced by transgender and gender-nonconforming members of our LGBTQ+ communities, it's difficult to say how far we've come. And let's add bisexual identities to this concern as well, given how much misunderstanding they continue to face in this brave new year of 2019.

I'm not talking about The Great Backlash of 2016, when the new administration in Washington, D.C. began to roll back the gains that had been made in the past two decades.

I'm talking about the great lack of understanding and, yes, much willful ignorance

of so many people who just don't want to look outside the binary, the either/or of life.

In a recent opinion piece, Andrea Long Chu, who is transitioning from male to female, declared, "My vagina won't make me happy, and it shouldn't have to." She believes the definition of gender dysphoria is too narrow, as it emphasizes the distress many people feel at the incongruence between the gender they express and the one they have been assigned.

"By focusing on minimizing patients' pain, it leaves the door open for care to be refused when a doctor or someone playing doctor, deems the risks too high," she writes.

Chu believes that in much of current care there is an underlying assumption that "people transition because they think it will make them feel better. The thing is, this is wrong. …

Surgery's only prerequisite should be a simple demonstration of want."

A lengthy and well reported cover story in The Atlantic last year led with this: "Your child says she's trans. She wants hormones and surgery. She's 13." The author goes on to discuss newly emerging protocols of social and physical transition for young people and adults who are diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

With adolescents the new protocols are called "affirming care" and involve thorough assessments of the young person; of course, the parents need to make the final decision for children under 18. Many gender clinics are following "informed consent" protocols for adults, which means that once they are fully informed of potential benefits and risks of medical procedures, they shouldn't be questioned about their needs by medical professionals.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), has created Standards of Care and Ethical Guidelines and has established a Global Education Initiative that conducts training for individuals worldwide. WPATH is "a nonprofit, interdisciplinary professional and educational organization devoted to transgender health" and has been around since 1979.

We need more education like that provided by WPATH. These matters are extremely complicated and can't be resolved without some deep learning. Deep learning requires a careful consideration of the issues, which includes taking the time to research and reflect.

There are so many aspects to consider in the challenges our TGNC sisters and brothers face, beginning with language. As the LGBTQ spectrum has continued to add more and more letters, too many people are simply shaking their heads, saying WTF? and stopping there.

But as I have noted before in citing media and language scholar Neil Postman, learning new words is not a cosmetic activity. It entails developing a new understanding of the world—in this case, seeing people in new ways. And humans are so wonderfully diverse, aren't we?

To achieve true understanding and affirmation of that diversity we need to dig into the multiple complexities of life. I used to tell my students at the beginning of every semester that we were going to deal with three major concepts: chaos, ambiguity and paradox.

Apparently, I used these words a great deal, as I was gifted with a T-shirt emblazoned with them from one literature class. Come to think of it, another class gave me a T-shirt with Bart Simpson on the front and "Trum Simmons: HACC's Underachiever" on the back, but that's another story.

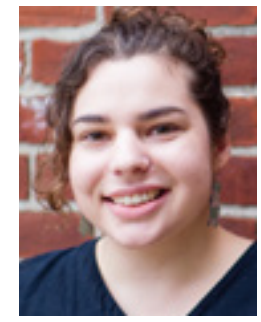
If you can't deal with all the chaos, ambiguity and paradox in life, then you are not going to do very well with understanding TGNC people and their challenges.

I mentioned bisexual identities at the top of this column, as I had been thinking about the new HULU series "The Bisexual." The show explores issues surrounding female sexuality and the discomfort many people, both gay and straight, have with bisexuality.

In a recent interview with co-writer, director and star Desiree Akhavan, she was asked about the show's title. "I think it will turn off a lot of viewers," she said. "I want to know why that is and to stand by it: I know that I'm playing the long game, and I want you to watch this thing and be like 'Oh, that's not what I thought it would be.' "

I think she's right: In the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and social change, we need to play the long game, and we need to be prepared to learn that gender and sexuality are not what we thought they would be.

LANCASTER from page 1



Hines

ated from politics and systematically disenfranchised."

"LSU understands why people feel like their votes and voices don't matter. But we've also seen how powerful people can be when they decide to act together," Hines says.

Hines says LSU is unique because the group combines "advocacy and electoral work." Out of necessity organizations separate issue work from politics. LSU connects issues to political solutions, whether that be immigration, gentrification, or money in politics.

"We believe that both major party establishments have failed us and need to be held accountable," Hines opines. Being able to say "if you don't meet our demands, we will vote you out" has gotten the attention of a political establishment that typically only responds to money and electoral power.

LSU presents itself as an independent organization "but that doesn't mean we are neutral or don't have a political analysis," Hines explains. Ideas that the group posits are popular with Americans - getting money out of politics, fighting against systematic racism and oppression, establishing a living wage, immigration, healthcare-for-all - inform their work.

Hines says they're "here for the long haul" even though when they got started "we didn't even know we would get involved in the midterm elections." She says LSU is planning for 2019 and 2020 and "continuing to raise raising money for families affected by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and addressing aggressive policing in Lancaster."

Gay angle

Referring to the current national political environment as posing "an acute threat to the LGBT community," Hines says the queer community is "involved in all levels of the organization's leadership, especially queer youth."

When Lancaster resident Eric Fisher alerted LSU that an anti-trans speaker was scheduled at Lancaster Bible College the group organized their first action explicitly addressing LGBT issues. "We learned there's incredible enthusiasm for more action on LGBT issues," Hines told CV.

"Intersectional" is today's popular word for what has been going on for a long time. When folks gather from different backgrounds to solve common problems and problems unique to a sub-section of a larger group like LSU. For example, all low-paid members of LSU would benefit from higher wages. Those members without health care coverage would benefit from health-care-for-all. Some members of LSU are now paid a living wage, or higher, and may have health care coverage. Some LSU members are gay, low-paid, no health care insurance. Some gay members are well-paid and have health insurance. But all gay members are not protected in employment and other public services from being discriminated against. These combinations of "what ails you" represent the "intersections" and the power perceived as inherent in working together.

"I don't want to gloss over the importance of the intersection of electoral work and LGBT issues," Hines says. She notes that the Trump administration is hostile to the LGBT community; that the "Pennsylvania State Legislature has been attacking the civil rights of the LGBT community for years."

There's more – making LSU politics local.

In Lancaster, when it was proposed to include LGBT individuals in protections outlined in the county-level Human Relations Commission, "the County Commissioners decided instead to eliminate the commission altogether," Hines says.

Hines says also that Lancaster region's State Sen. Ryan P. Aument, (R, 36th District) and State Sen. Scott Martin, (R, 13th District) voted against reauthorizing CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) because it provided coverage to transgender children.

"Pennsylvania deserves better. We deserve a state legislature that will stand up for all of us. That's why contesting current power structures that are failing our communities is so important to LSU's mission," Hines concludes.

SELF-CARE from page 9

stricken with HIV/AIDS to care for them when no one else would; and on and on. This creation of chosen families is an incredible legacy that we carry within our communities, and it is something that we continue today.

I have seen the very tangible ways that our chosen families function through the Center - people celebrating holidays and milestones together, helping each other move into new apartments or offering a place to stay, caring for each other after surgeries or during mental health crises, and helping raise money for gender-affirming surgeries. We support each other in tangible ways, and remind each other that we are loved, we are wanted, we belong, we are home. I am incredibly grateful for my chosen family, who celebrate with me on the good days, support me on the bad days, and share all of the ordinary moments in between. I know that when I am feeling exhausted or overwhelmed, spending time with them is always the balm that I need.

We don't know what the next attacks on our communities will be, but as we continue to resist let us remember how vital it is that we care for ourselves and we care for each other. Practicing self-care and creating chosen families IS radical, and part of what makes us resilient.

CONVERSION
from page 1

therapy. "Outside the LGBT community, not many people really understand what individuals experience under the hurtful rigors of conversion therapy," Allatt says.

There are no known or expected costs to the city of banning or resolving that city council doesn't condone the therapy.

Allatt expects the process to move quickly with final passage of a measure by year's end. As of July 3, 2018, there were eight Pennsylvania municipalities that have acted on the controversial form of intervention: Reading, Allentown, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Doylestown, State College and Yardley Borough.

Meanwhile, *CV* talked with Wayne Besen, veteran activist on the issue of conversion and reparative therapies. Located in Washington, DC, he's back in the game after a sabbatical.

"The conversion therapy crowd is considerably weakened than when we all began this effort about 30 years ago," Besen said. In the last three decades proponents of the discredited intervention have seen their leaders run off with boyfriends. Individuals exposed to the therapy have come forward to say it just didn't work for them. "The Right and Evangelical leaders have had the experience of a child coming out to them, challenging their belief in the approach," Besen said.

Although on the wane, Besen says "there'll always be a demand from religious-based households and congregations that will continue to define gay as something that needs to be changed, even with overwhelming evidence it just doesn't work." Besen thinks of conversion therapy advocates as the original believers in 'fake science."

WAR
from page 20

Whether Trump or a Democrat wins the presidency in 2020, the losing side will be outraged that their sensible, moral, "real" America is again in exile while the US is being led by a dangerous demagogue from the other—false —vision of their country.

Jews and blacks and Sikhs and queers and immigrants and Democrats generally are on one side of this ideological war. The other side—the white-Christian-identity-politics side—is heavily armed. By that I don't just mean with personal weapons; I mean that they tend to be the ones serving in the US military or associated with militia groups. And I fear we are heading for a civil war.

I hope I'm being oversensitive. But when people in a progressive, social-justice, immigrant-loving synagogue—a shul like my own—are slaughtered for allegedly polluting white America, of course my mind drifts toward who did and who did not flee Europe in time to escape the Holocaust. And while I dislike victim politics—I believe in the politics of making change—I am Jewish, and queer, and a journalist, and the parent of a young man of color, all facts that will bring out the trolls. And I am afraid.

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